

CU

# AMIGA

M A G A Z I N E

April 1998 £5.99 (US\$12.99) ISSN 0950-0804 • 0950-0804(199804)10:00:1-0

## Take it to the Macs!

*Turn your Amiga into a Mac:  
Software on disk, details inside...*

### PowerPC Update

*The latest developments*

### Millennium Bug

*Is your Amiga safe?*

### Inside

*Doom Levels,*

*XDVE, ST Fax,*

*Siamese, PPaint,*

*C Programming,*

*Internet, Scala*

*and more*

No CD-ROM? Ask your Newsagent!

CD edition, disk  
version also available



# Weird Science

Phone 0116 246 3800

Fax 0116 246 3801

Email [sales@weirdscience.co.uk](mailto:sales@weirdscience.co.uk)

Q House, Troon Way Business Centre, Humberstone Lane, Leicester. LE4 9HA WWW [www.weirdscience.co.uk](http://www.weirdscience.co.uk)

## AMINET CDs



**ALL ONLY £10.99 EACH**

Subscribe to the Aminet Series and receive each CD for just 18.99p.

Subscription is FREE and each CD is only charged upon release.



**£27.99 £27.99 £15.99 £15.99 £15.99**

**AMINET SET 6 AVAILABLE LATE MARCH**



**£29.99 £69.99 £49.99 £19.95 £19.95**



**£9.99 £12.99 £12.99 £10.99 £34.99**



**£29.99 £19.95 £22.99 £19.95 £9.99**



**£24.99 £9.99 £39.99 £17.99 £9.99**



**£17.99**

Deluxe Paint 5 is now available on CD-ROM or Floppy Disk.



**DELUXE PAINT 5**

**£17.99**



Blitz Basic 2.1 is now available on CD-ROM or Floppy Disk.



**BLITZ BASIC 2.1**

**£39.99**



Full Version available now inc. Networking & Amiga Emulation.



**AMIGA FOREVER**

**£29.99**



Lightrom 4 £19.99



Lightrom Gold £14.99



Dem Rom £ 9.99

**LIGHTROM 5**

AGA Toolkit	£ 9.99
In-To-The-Net CD	£ 9.99
The Learning Curve	£ 19.95
Miami	£ 29.95
Personal Suite CD-ROM	£ 4.99
Personal Paint 6.4 & Manual	£ 4.99
Imagine 3D PD	£ 14.99
Fusion (Mac Emulator)	£ 49.99
PCX (PC Emulator)	£ 49.99
Speedy '97	£ 14.99
Retno Gold	£ 9.99
Epic Encyclopedia '97	£ 19.99
Amiga Desktop Video 2	£ 14.99
Magic Workbench Enhancer	£ 9.99
USD CD 3	£ 9.99
Epic Collection 3 CD	£ 14.99
NFA AGA Experience 2	£ 2.99
NFA AGA Experience 3	£ 9.99
(Browse (Full Version))	£ 24.99
The Hidden Truth	£ 19.99
Enc. of the Paranormal	£ 14.99
3D CD 1 Objects	£ 9.99
3D CD 2 Images	£ 9.99
UPD Gold	£ 14.99

TEAM 5 RETAIL DISTRIBUTORS FOR GTI, SCHATZTRUNK, CLAUDIO, GRAPHIC RETAIL, INTERACTIVE, EPIC, SARDINES, PIGGY, HENRY, WOLFE, COLUMBIA, LEXSON, AND BUNCA INTERNATIONAL.

International Distributor









## News

**10** All the latest developments on the Amiga scene, plus Starside.

**12** Advertisers Index

**Screen Scene .....30**

**38** Game News

**40** Doom Level Round-Up  
Reviews:

**42** Theme Park

**42** Simon the Sorcerer

**49** Wing Nuts

**48** Tips Central

**49** Adventure Helpline

**Tech Scene .....60**

**60** XDVE

**63** World of Amiga Show

**64** Siamese RTG

**69** Font Machine

**60** ST Fax

**62** CD-ROM Scene

**64** DPaintS

**66** PD Scene

**68** PD Utilities

**70** Art Gallery

**72** User Groups

**Workshop .....75**

**76** Personal Point 6.6

**80** Amiga C Programming

**83** Back Issues

**84** Net God

**85** Surf of the Month

**88** Wired World

**88** Scale Tutorial

**90** Sound Lab

**96** ObA

**99** A to Z

**100** Backchat

**103** Subscriptions

**104** Points of View

**106** Techno Tragedies

Screen 30



Screen 40



Screen 42



Screen 49

Screen 48



Screen 49

## Cover disks

**14 Super CD-ROM 21**

You'll find ShapeShifter on here just as with the floppies. But we have also supplied you with a handy file ready to use from the CD which contains a wealth of Macintosh software and demos for you to try out.

All the normal range of Amiga games, utilities, demos, pics, music and more can also be found on CDROM, an essential resource that Amiga user can't afford to be without.

**18 ShapeShifter**

This month on the disk we have provided a ShapeShifter installation which will allow you to try out a Mac system and explore Mac software. Please note that for legal reasons we cannot supply the necessary ROM file, but we tell you how to get it.



## Storage Devices

### FLOPPY DISK DRIVES

8000-INTERNAL DRIVE	£224.00
4000A-1000 INTERNAL DRIVE	£224.00
4000-INTERNAL DRIVE	£224.00
PC0000-EXTERNAL DRIVE	£224.00
8-1.2MB-EXTERNAL DRIVE	£224.00
8-1.2MB-INT. DRIVE 40000	£224.00



### IONEGA ZIP DRIVE

• Inc. cable and Zip tools inc. 1 cartridge	
ZIP DRIVE (300MB 100%)	£239.00
ZIP DRIVE (INCLUDED) (REQUIRED)	£249.00
ZIP DRIVE (200 MB) INTERNAL	£249.00
200MB ZIP CARTRIDGE	£249.00

\*REQUIRED SQUARE, SIDE INFORMATION



## Modem Bundles

### MODEM ONE BUNDLE

• 24-66PS Modem and cables	
• Tel and Web software	
• Hypermail software	
• One month free with Comnet Internet	
MODEM BUNDLE ONE	£259.00



### MODEM TWO BUNDLE

• 24-66PS Modem and cables	
• Tel and Web software	
• Browser software	
• One month free with Comnet Internet	
• Whopper fast serial interface A0001200	
MODEM BUNDLE TWO	£259.00



### MODEM THREE BUNDLE

• 24-66PS Modem and cables	
• Tel and Web software	
• Browser software	
• One month free with Comnet Internet	
• Fast square SCSI-2 serial interface for A2000 PCMCIA connection	
MODEM BUNDLE THREE	£259.00



### GVP PRODUCTS

GVP MC-1000 INTERFACE	£299.00
GVP QUAD RAM VLS NEW VERSION	£499.00
GVP 800-K SOUND SAMPLER	£299.00
GVP 4MB RAM MODULE	£299.00
GVP 16MB RAM MODULE	£299.00
GVP 4000-1000 INTERFACE	£299.00

FOR ALL A2000 ACCELERATION CARDS



**NEW LOW PRICES**

### MISCELLANEOUS

POWERWAVE - GRAPHIC TABLET	£1199.00
ZIP RAB (540K) COLOUR PER MB	£29.00
BREAKTHROUGH 3D-GAME	£15.00
800-800 ADVENTURE CO-RAB	£29.00
HIGH DUTY PUL 200 WATT	£29.00
OFFICIAL AMIGA MOUSE (AND RAB)	£29.00



### JOYPAD OFFER

• Supplied for use with many games	
GAMES JOYPAD	£24.00



All prices include VAT

**Special Offer**

### HARD DRIVES

• Inc. cable and software and filling correct	
2.5" HARD DRIVE 1.5GB	£229.00
2.5" HARD DRIVE 1.0GB	£229.00
2.5" HARD DRIVE 1.5GB	£229.00
2.5" HARD DRIVE 1.5GB	£229.00
2.5" HARD DRIVE 1.5GB	£229.00
2.5" HARD DRIVE 1.5GB	£229.00
SCSI CABLE FOR TWO 2.5" HD	£22.00
EXTERNAL SCSI HD 2.1 GB	£249.00
INTERNAL SCSI HD 2.1 GB	£249.00

**2.5" SEAGATE HD 800MB £29.00**  
**INC. CABLE & INSTR. 50%**

### CYBERVISION 64-3D CARD

• 60-line 64-bit graphic card	
• 4MB of display memory	
• For the A2000/20000 TurboB	
CYBERVISION 64-3D CARD	£109.00
SCANDORUBER CYBERVISION	£99.00



### VIDEO BACKUP DEVICE

• Backup 100MB onto a 440 MB tape	
VIDEO BACKUP - PROHD	£200.00
VIDEO BACKUP - SCRT	£200.00

## Amiga Scanners

### FLATBED SCANNERS

• Epson 44 Flatbed Scanner	
• 24-bit colour scanning	
• Desktop and line art modes	
• SCSI software available at £20	
EPSON 44-1000 SCANNER	£219.00
EPSON 44-1000 + SOFTWARE	£249.00



### HAND SCANNERS

• Includes interface and software	
• Colour scanner in A24 24-bit/4800DPI	
POWERSCAN BLACK & WHITE	£249.00
POWERSCAN COLOUR INC. 200 MB 200	£249.00
SCANNER FOR SOFTWARE	£20



## Epson Printers

### EPSON STYLUS PRINTERS

• Includes Turbo Print II and cable	
EPSON 800 AM 1440DPI COLOUR	£209.00
EPSON 800 AM 1440DPI COLOUR	£209.00
TURBO PRINT II FULL VERSION	£24.00
TURBO PRINT II-LITE VERSION	£20.00



### CATWEASEL MK2

• A0001200 high density drive controller	
• Allow you to connect any (H) drive	



### ORIGINAL A1000 KEYBOARD/INTERFACE £40

### NEW POWER IO-EXTENDER INTERNAL

POWER PORT JUNIOR (1 x 16-bit internal)	£29.00
POWER PORT PLUS (2 x 16-bit internal)	£29.00
POWER PORT 2.0 (2 x 16-bit internal)	£29.00

**01234 851500**  
**FAX 01234 855400**

UNIT 824 LINGER WAY

KEMPSTON MK42 TPU

Unit 824 Linger Way Kempston MK42 TPU



**POWER**

**COMPUTING LTD**

© 2000 Blackwell Science Ltd *Journal of Internal Medicine* 247: 395–402

## A1200 Accelerators Cards



www.powerc.com

### VIPER MKII 40MHz 030

- AM28C02 40MHz (NOT MKII)
  - Optional 2nd 512K socket upto 64MB
  - PCMCIA friendly, 64K Clock, Optional CPU
- |                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| VIPER MKII 40MHz 030  | £199.95 |
| VIPER MKII 40MHz 4MB  | £209.95 |
| VIPER MKII 40MHz 8MB  | £229.95 |
| VIPER MKII 40MHz 16MB | £179.95 |
| VIPER MKII 40MHz 32MB | £194.95 |
| VIPER MKII 40MHz 64MB | £239.95 |
| OPTIONAL 50MHz SOCKET | £19.95  |



### BLIZZARD 1230 MKIV

- |                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| 40000 BASE 10MHz | £209.95 |
| 40000 8MB RAM    | £114.95 |
| 40000 16MB RAM   | £134.95 |
| 40000 32MB RAM   | £169.95 |



### APOLLO 68040 BOARD

- |                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| APOLLO 1240 10MHz | £179.95 |
| APOLLO 1240 20MHz | £149.95 |
| APOLLO 1240 40MHz | £169.95 |



### APOLLO 68060 BOARD

- |                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| APOLLO 1260 10MHz | £259.95 |
| APOLLO 1260 40MHz | £219.95 |



## A500 Accelerator Card

### NEW VIPER 520C0

- 68020C 33MHz without 68M1
  - PGA-RPL Socket 50MHz Only
  - Space for 1MB, 2.5" Hard Drive
  - 3 x 40-Pin CD ROM/HD Socket
  - 68M1 Order to card
  - 3.0/40M including software
  - Fast digital vid bus to M mini image chip
- |             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| VIPER 520C0 | £299.95 |
|-------------|---------|



### BLIZZARD 1260 MKV

- |                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| 40000 BASE 10MHz | £219.95 |
| 40000 8MB RAM    | £209.95 |
| 40000 16MB RAM   | £209.95 |
| 40000 32MB RAM   | £249.95 |

INCLUDING 500K INTERFAGE

WE BUY BACK BLIZZARD BOARDS  
WHEN YOU ARE UPGRADING TO A  
POWER PC ACCELERATOR CARD

## A600 Accelerator Card

### NEW VIPER 630

- AM28C02 Accelerator Card
  - 40000 33MHz Processor
  - Up to 32MB RAM (1 x 32MB)
  - CPU Included, PCMCIA Compatible
- |                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| A600 68K 33MHz   | £279.95 |
| A600 68K 33MHz   | £299.95 |
| A600 68K 33MHz   | £299.95 |
| A600 10MHz 33MHz | £179.95 |
| A600 32MB 33MHz  | £199.95 |



## CYBERSTORM

### CYBERSTORM POWERPC

- 604x PowerBoard without 68K CPU
  - Ultra Wide SCSI-3, Includes 68M1/PPC
  - For the 40000/44000/50
- |                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| 10MHz PPC 68K CPU         | £219.95 |
| 10MHz PPC 68K CPU         | £219.95 |
| 10MHz PPC 68040 33MHz CPU | £299.95 |
| 10MHz PPC 68040 33MHz CPU | £149.95 |
| 10MHz PPC 68040 33MHz CPU | £249.95 |
| 10MHz PPC 68040 33MHz CPU | £249.95 |

## Power Special Offer

SPECIAL CPU PRICES  
WHEN PURCHASED  
WITH ANY  
ACCELERATOR CARD

30MHz £10 (PLCC) 30MHz £19  
(PLCC) 40MHz (PLCC) £30  
30MHz £29 (PGA)

## NEW! IDE-Fix '97

NEW! ONLY £30.95

- 1 Way IDE Buffered Interface
- IDE-Fix '97 Software (not Registered)

### IDE CABLES £9.95

- 2.5" Cable
- 2.5" 3-Way 40-pin



## Memory Simms

### MEMORY SIMMS

- High quality memory SIMMS
- |                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| 4MB 72-Pin SIMM  | £29.95 |
| 4MB 72-Pin SIMM  | £19.95 |
| 16MB 72-Pin SIMM | £29.95 |
| 32MB 72-Pin SIMM | £49.95 |
- PLEASE CALL FOR LATEST PRICES



### 2.5" HARD DRIVES

- Complete with 2.5" IDE Cable
  - Install Software
  - Partitioned and Formatted with
  - Benchmark 3.0
  - 4 x fitting screws
  - Fits the A1200 computer
- |                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| 1.2MB Hard Drive  | £129.95 |
| 1.44MB Hard Drive | £139.95 |
| 2.16MB Hard Drive | £169.95 |

### POWER DIGITAL CAMERA

- Power Camera and Amiga Driver
- |                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| POWER DIGITAL CAMERA | £399.95 |
|----------------------|---------|



OFFICIAL AMIGA MONITOR



AVAILABLE MARCH 1998



# News

## phase 5 seek OS license phase 5 to produce Amiga clone?



Phase 5 also returned to be developing their own Amiga clone far more powerful than any previous model.

While phase 5 general manager Ralf Dietrich declined to confirm or deny the rumors, he commented: "we will use the logical building blocks from the PowerUP development for integration into future products. These products, which are in the announced stage, will bring new life and excitement to the Amiga market".

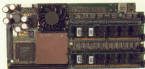
The German hardware company behind the PowerUP PowerPC cards, have confirmed that they have agreed conditions with Amiga International for an Amiga OS 3.1 license and should be signing the contract in the next few days. This suggests a more co-operative approach to the development of the Amiga platform, as opposed to the previous push towards their own ABox system. Their willingness to advance the official Amiga line has also been indicated with their recent offer to lend their expertise in multi-processing design, interchangeable graphics and other elements of future OS design to IOOA (International Council of Open Amiga), the unofficial Amiga advisory organization.

Some criticism has been levelled at phase 5 in recent months that they were more interested in pushing the Amiga market into an early upgrade path to their own proprietary ABox operating system to the detriment of the Amiga itself, and it

seems likely that this move has been in part to counteract that criticism. A spokesman for the German company said rather cryptically: "...we are greatly expanding the functionality of our PowerUP system software to fulfil the needs as a major stepping stone towards a revised, enhanced, and eventually also PPC native AmigaOS".

### PCI Possibilities

An important indicator of the possibilities can be drawn from a close examination of the development of the Remede 2-based graphics card phase 5 are developing as a PowerUP add-on. SoLabs supply the Remede 2 chip in a form designed for a PCI bus, which means that connecting one to the expansion bus on the PowerUP will make developing a PowerUP to PCI bridge. A motherboard based on this technology would offer the combined PowerPC and 68040 processing solution of the PowerUP cards, along with 3D graphics and PCI card capability. Bearing in mind the other unlocked fact that the PowerUP technology supports multiple CPUs, this would hint at the possibility of incredible fast machines with several PPC 603 or 604 CPUs working in parallel. Such a system would bear broad similarities to the GERP platform, and would certainly benefit from the cost advantages that accrue to those simple modular designs. Basically it could deliver a lot of processing power at a low price. The idea of an Amiga with advanced 3D graphics, capable of accepting industry stan-



dard PCI cards and running faster than any Pentium system we're likely to see is certainly an appealing one and looks a very likely possibility for a future follow-up to the PowerUP project.

### PowerUP powers up

In related news, phase 5 have announced that reductions in price of the PowerPC chips have allowed them to offer higher specifications for the same price. From next on, Cyberstorm PPC 604 cards will be supplied in a 200MHz form to replace the current 200MHz top specification model, while the price will actually drop slightly to £599 without a 68040 companion CPU. At the lower end, the first batch of Blizzard PPC cards for the A1020 have just gone into production and will have shipped by the time you read this.

The Blizzard PPC cards will be pushed aggressively in the wake of the announcement last month by Amiga Inc that 68040 plus PowerPC parallel CPUs were the next step in Amiga development. Unit prices for the 68040 remain high, but volume availability of high quality recycled 68040s has enabled the lower end cards to be released substantially more cheaply than originally thought.

Final pricing will depend somewhat on current exchange rates, and looks set to be a little higher than the target prices we reported last month.

The A1020 version of the PowerUP card will ship with an AGA version of the CyberGraphic system, allowing the supplied CyberGraphic-only PPC software to be used without a graphics card. Current indications are that contrary to earlier expectations, all cards may be compatible with standard desktop cases, not requiring a tower conversion.

### Spring Blizzards

The first version of the Blizzard PPC cards to be released will be the 160MHz and 200MHz versions. Long lead times on the 250MHz PPC 6030 CPU components will mean that the higher end cards are likely to be delayed a little further, but phase 5 will be happy to push the lower end cards. Even at 160MHz, the PPC6030 chip used on these cards will run several times faster than any 68040 based Amiga, and the price point will make it a tempting product. Fitted with a 68040 25MHz companion processor, the board will retail for the kind of price a similar 140 board would have cost only a year ago. We should have a full review of the first Blizzard PPC next month.

**phase 5**  
electronics, hardware, pc's

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO BE TOMORROW?



# World of Amiga

After some months of uncertainty, we can reveal that the UK will be getting a major show this year. The World of Amiga show will be held over the weekend of the 16th and 17th of May in the National, London.

It will host a developers conference, and in response to complaints about clashes with the cup final, a special football suite where the match will be shown live on a big screen. The list of exhibitors is growing fast, with Amiga International, Power Computing, Epic, Cii Amiga, World Science and Bitswartz amongst many others already agreeing to attend.

The show will also publicise exhibitors of the DOS / Power Computing

AB000, the Bitswartz/Amiga information BoXer, PowerPC cards and software such as Microsoft T, Foundation and Image F3.0. There will be a number of competitions announced closer to the time and a 16v8v8 Double tournament is being planned.

A developer's conference will be held preceding the show, and it is hoped that some early developments of OS3.5 will be on display for the very first time. For further information on the show, and ticketing details, look for the advert on page 63 of this issue.



## Openscape forms

A public organization calling itself Openscape has recently been formed to tackle the various large tasks that will face the world computing community when the source code to Netscape 3.0 is released in the near future.

To date, the organisation has set up a centre of mailing lists and a Website at [www.openscape.org](http://www.openscape.org) as a clearing house for pooling recommendations and innovations achieved using the Netscape source. Hard information is still difficult to come

by because Netscape has not spoken much further about the details of their plans. Organisations like Openscape should prove valuable for efforts to join the browser to the Amiga and other small platforms.

One of the few facts on the page is that Netscape has apparently stated that only the company itself will be able to use the trademark "Netscape" to describe a product. It is not yet clear what rules apply to pointing efforts that Netscape itself is not directly involved with.



## BoXer gets PPC

Index Information, (Bitswartz) and phase 5 digital products have announced co-operation on developing PPC hardware for the upcoming BoXer motherboards. Index initially announced that PPC compatibility would come through a cheap upgrade path based on the Board's built-in 64 bit memory access path, but until now the details were unclear. This move will clear up any doubts developers or purchasers

may have had about the compatibility of the BoXer and PowerUP PPC solutions. Bitswartz's Paul Lussat said, "Whilst the BoXer is very much a product to provide a diverse range of Amiga systems, we feel it is important to maintain compatibility with the leading edge peripherals."

The agreement between the companies means that the BoXer will develop compatible PPC technology quickly, and will support an interface to the PowerMac 2 based Cyrix/PowerPC cards currently in development by phase 5. The two companies stressed the importance of developing hardware standards, particularly stressing the advantage that universal availability of a 3D graphics system would provide. "By jointly choosing a common performance level for the next generation of GPR cards, together we can set a unified minimum standard which software developers can rely on. This will quickly increase the number of applications using highest resolution and the hardware 3D acceleration, including quite a number of fascinating new games," said Wolf Dietrich, general manager of phase 5.

## Siamese Alpha systems

HQ have announced the pricing of their forthcoming Siamese Alpha systems. A package consisting of a Siemang manufactured Alpha 21164 CPU running at 533MHz, a Siemang 21164X motherboard, 640k of DRAM, a seven bay tower case, a Diamond Fx51, 1800 MHz graphics card, 2.1Gb UDMA hard drive, 34 speed CD-ROM drive, 16 bit sound card, keyboard, floppy drive and mouse will come in at £1999 plus VAT. This price will include

Pentium based UAE, running emulation at speeds similar to an O30, but this remains to be seen.

HQ are in negotiations with Kyocera, whose CPU coolers are claimed to allow the Alpha chips to run overclocked to around 800MHz, and hope to make an announcement in the matter soon. HQ can be reached on +44 (0) 1225 21 1327 or visit the Siamese Website at <http://www.siamese.co.uk>







# Stateside News

by Jason Compton, Editor in Chief of Amiga Report Magazine

## Access America

Index Information's (i3) Amiga-based multimedia machines, the Access, has landed on US soil. Features of New York are handling sales of the unit, which consists of a full featured AGA Amiga powered by an i30 or optional i330 fitting in a single 5.25 inch drive bay.

Paxton sells the basic motherboard for US\$499, or US\$599 installed in a custom case and power supply unit. The company is also expected to be a primary source for future Index products such as the i3000 motherboard and the IndexOut Amiga motherboard/PCI card.

On another multimedia note, Paxton has introduced pricing on refurbished pre-installed units, the Pioneer LJ-16000—under US\$100. The company acquired them from a corporation which did not make use of them in an extended expansion move—systems like this might have brought a lot of AmigaHome systems. Paxton can be reached at 814-678-8522 or online at [www.paxton.com](http://www.paxton.com).

## Fish bows out

Fred Fish has officially severed all ties of the touches he has borne for the Amiga for so many years. The founder of Amiga PD distribution yielded to the momentum of Amiga's long ago, but only recently did his company, Conus, suspend the bulk of its Amiga support.

While Conus will continue to support the Amiga in its Geek Gadgets CD-ROMs or CD41 tools, it will no longer produce Amiga specific CD-ROMs or act as a distributor of Amiga products. The company held a liquidation sale to clear out its remaining inventory of Amiga CD-ROMs.

Fish made it clear that the decision was not made out of disgust or disenchanted with the Amiga but simply out of business concerns, and that in future the company may see fit to re-enter the Amiga market. Conus will continue to support the Amiga mailing list built as Amiga Report which operate through their [newsconus.com](http://newsconus.com) server.

## Nowa Design announces ImageFX 3

After much of the ImageFX community knew something was coming, Nowa Design today the long silence and finally announced the impending release of ImageFX 3.0. One of the changes is a revamped interface—something people have been screaming for since the earliest releases of IFX. The new interface will allow users to work in multiple project windows from independent interfaces rather than from a single locked button bar.

More importantly, IFX 3 gains a full implementation of unlimited layers, allowing Photoshop style image manipulation and creation. New digital and fractal effects will be making their debut, and another Photoshop influence comes in the FilterForge module, which can add the same popular effects entered into the Filter Factory of the PC/Mac product.

Upgrades and new copies of version 3 are shipping now. Contact Nowa Design in the States 804-282-1187 or Wizard Developments in the UK for more information.

## Digital Universe doubts

The highly acclaimed Digital Universe astronomy package may not shine as brightly on the Amiga in the future.

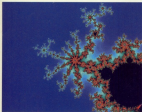
Senary Research and Technology have been making plans for version 2 of the software virtually since its release a few years back, to be on CD-ROM with expanded features, star and nebulae body catalogues, and compatibility with PCs and Macs as well. Now the company is publicly questioning the viability of continued support of Digital Universe on the Amiga.

To clear the air and make their decision explicit, they have started a survey page online where users and potential customers can stress the importance of DU 2. Senary projects that the new version would cost about \$100 Canadian (\$75) upon release.

To participate in the survey, check out <http://www.srt.com/CD/Amiga2.html>



## Highlights of CU Amiga Super CD 21



▲ **FlashMandel** is a pain, it's been a while since the ease for Mandelbrot patterns, but it's due to see some decent new software writing!



▲ **Easy using** like **Illustrator** is your design? Check out our collection of **Quetzalcoatl** bits and pieces to get the best out of your IBM resolution.

### Games/DoomGate & Games/GulDoom

**DoomGate** and **GulDoom** both deal with the problems of ramming, being the command line options for launching each **Doom**.

They each provide an easy to use front end for starting any **Amiga Doom**.

### Graphics/FlashMandel

There was a time when it seemed like every other program released was another **Mandelbrot** generator, how these are very few released, but this particular one is a good one.

### Graphics/P96Speed

As well as the latest **Picopass96**

software for graphics cards, we have this benchmarking program.

You can now compare the speed of **Picopass96** and **CyberGraph** software on your graphics card and against results for other hardware setups, before deciding which best suits your needs.

### Online/WebTV

Mentioned in last month's **Surf's Up**, **WebTV** is now available.

**WebTV** monitors Web cameras at remote sites, re-downloading and displaying the image every time that it changes.

### Utilities/XOpa

This is a system monitor that not only displays information about your



▲ A picture from the exciting weekend at last year's **World of Amiga Expo**. **Amiga** makes things like this a whole lot easier!



▲ **Make your setup easier with Amiga.**



▲ **The ultimate system monitor that not justifies how your system is.**

system but also allows you to change. This means that you can do little things like controlling the priority of tasks and closing unwanted windows.

It also means you can crash your machine quite easily if you don't read the instructions first.

### Utilities/IDorPrefs

Apparently inspired by **CLICPrefs**, this is a preferences editor for the excellent **Idm** file identifier and handler.

### Utilities/SysSpeed

Another useful system monitor this one tests many aspects of your machine's performance, both with theoretical and real life tests.

## Making things work

Wherever possible, we have tried to make software work straight from the CD, this isn't always possible for a number of reasons. Some programs need to be installed to your hard drive to work, often requiring specific system files. These files are usually on the CD, so running **Amiga** often helps here.

Most software contains a list of system requirements in the documentation, and some will not run unless you have the required processor, memory, operating system version or chipset.

Some programs, particularly demos and games are written in an **OS** directed way. This can mean they only work on specific machine specifications, sometimes the machine states, this, but not always. Many demos are intended to be run for a while, the ones we add simply start them from a script. In some cases this will not work, especially demos that need a lot of **Chip RAM**. In this case you will need to boot without startup sequence and run the program from the shell. Your **Workbench** manual should explain how to do this.

## What's on this month's CU Amiga CD?

**ShapeShifter:** To go with the Mac emulation feature in this magazine, we have an excellent selection of Mac software as well as ShapeShifter itself. The software is provided in the form of ShapeShifter "filedaks". These are seen as hard drives by the Mac emulation. Since the Mac insists on trying to write to all hard drives, you will get lots of "Volume CUCD01 is write-protected" requests if you try to access the file disks directly from the CD, so you need to copy it to your hard drive first. For this reason the files are split into 4 separate filedaks, 25MB each, to save finding room for a 100MB filedisk in one go.

### The 4 filedaks are:

**Bootdisk:** This is a bootable filedisk containing a full installation of MacOS System 7.1.1, the last freely-distributable version, in addition to the system software, this filedisk also contains a number of utilities that will be useful in setting up your own system.

These include Adobe Acrobat Reader, for viewing PDF documents, Stuff Expander, the standard unzipper on the Mac, File Buddy and RealEdit, for altering file and user information, and a set of printer drivers.

**UtilitiesDisk:** The Desktop Extensions folder contains several programs for improving or altering the look of the Mac desktop. Keyboardscope is excellent for altering the look of the system windows and gadgets to something more pleasing. The Utilities folder has a range of programs for working with files and improving your system. This includes system monitors, virus checkers, file utilities and "connectivity layer" programs.

**GraphicsCameraDisk:** The Graphics folder contains file viewers and conversion programs, such as JpegView and GraphicConverter, together with the Mac version of the POV-Ray ray tracing program.

Comma contains the Comma rational program and Archiver has programs for handling a range of archived and encoded files. This includes the .zip, .lha and unencoded files, as well as a couple of versions of the Mac standard Stuffit expander.

**GamesDisk:** This is an indication

of the size of Mac software. These games fill a 20MB partition.

Activision's Spellic is a WWII air strategy game, Air Traffic controller is pretty well described by its title and MegaquariumHome is, well, about Homer Simpson!

**CDsupport:** This contains various support files, such as mod players, prism players, GIMPas, MJL, DataSet. Most importantly, this is where the CDPhy's program lives. With this you can customise your CUCD to launch your choice of program for each type of file. Two other notable items in here are DocsGuide, with links to all the program documentation files on the CD, and Index. Run Index, type in the name of a program, or part of it, and it will search the contents of the CD. You can either search the current CD or the index files of all CUCDs since number 4.

**CUCD:** The CUCD drawer contains most of the CD contents, here is a selection of what each drawer holds:



**CDROM:** AnyCD is an audio CD player with a difference, it handles synthetic music files for

Karaoke type applications. There is also the latest MakeCD, that now handles DiskAtOnce (DAO) writing as well as the TrackAtOnce system used in previous versions. DAO is most useful for recording audio CDs without pausing between the tracks. This is the program used to create the master copies of CU Amiga CDs.



**Games:** Another substantial selection of games this month. Over 40MB of audio-visual videogames for your entertainment and delight!



**Demos:** Several updates on last month's Demos special, with new versions of most of the demo versions featured. There are also new Demos for PowerPC users, ZooDemos and eDemosPPC. Also in this month's CD are a new BioDemos and updates for Msp and Antiscopes as well as a range of other games.



**Graphics:** This drawer contains the latest versions of Picasso88 and



▲ Not your normal filedisk screen - something to do with shapeShifter? Check out the amazing Mac desktop, a computer on a CD-ROM!

RTSMaster, along with an update to dMPES, the mp3 video player. FastMandel is a mandelbrot generator and there are more icons and toolboxes to further customise your Workbench.



**Information:** This section has information files and guides on a range of subjects.

This month it includes system information on libraries, databases, devices and classes. There is also a range of other subjects covered, such as World Cup statistics covering every competition before France '98.



**Magazine:** Here are all the support files for the C' Tutorial, SoundLab and Wired World. To go with the

SThis review, there are a number of samples for use as answering machine messages. You don't need SThis to use these since they can be recorded onto a normal answering machine too.



**Online:** Archives of last month's postings to the CU Amiga mailing list, along with details of how you can join in here. There are several new mail and news readers here, such as PFMNews, Monopool, Mail and a preview of VMail.



**Programming:** You can find hints and tips from the Amco and SMD Basic programming mailing lists. There is a collection of Amiga I plugins for use with EasyGUI as

well as a drag & drop add on for GadTools. More PowerPC programming languages are here along with the latest "knowledge based system builder".



**Readers:** We have almost 50MB of readers submissions this month, including a CDG video on how to tower your A1200. We have number of modules and animations from readers plus several utilities and games.



**Sound:** A demo version of SynthMaster Paper Pro and a full release of the first version of the

DigiBender tracks. There are more mp3 utilities, a GUI for MP3GUI and a program to read and modify the tag information held in mp3 audio files.



**Utilities:** As usual, too many to describe. There are 28 separate utility programs in

here, plus a selection of new databases and some replacement imagery and filetypes for Directors Output vists.



**WWW:** Another collection of WWW sites, together with a choice of browser to view them.

Have a look at this sample of the sort of information that is available on the World Wide Web, including the fantastically brilliant, exciting, world famous etc... CU Online site!

100

The iNetwork Center has adopted a VME graphics card and also a VME-to-ISA converter to fit a Amiga 500 in place of the



System 1-wire alarm integrator	\$799.00
System 2-wire alarm integrator	\$1,299.00
1-wire to 2-wire alarm upgrade	\$799.00
CV 84002 640 graphics card	\$1,599.00
1-wire alarm + CV84002 bundle	\$999.00
CV84002 640 graphics card	\$1,599.00

The **AAU 2014-2015** *Academic* alternative subject is now available with optional *Black & Blue* for each already *Interim* of **AAU 2014-2015** *Academic* subject.

EE-v35A Mid upgradeable granular	\$799.00
EE-v35APlus granular/loop/phase	\$1799.00
Upgrade EE-v35A Mid to EE-v35APlus	\$799.00
Engineering-consultation 1F monitor, 2.04megapix, 1600 x 1280 @ 170Hz not included. See also: 1.5m 1700 monitor	\$1999.00

Downloaded At: 11:53 11 September 2009

	Backplane slot	IOV E2-Source	IOV E2-Target	E2-Source Port	Interface Source	Port Source
IOV face plate, cable	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Custom backplane with 200Gb/s IOV	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
400W power and I/O adapters	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
E2 bypass/standby P2 case	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Plastic	Infra-red w/LED
No of bypass/standby capacity		20-120W	20-120W	20-120W	120W/120W	
Upgradable P2 slot 24 slot	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4200.00	4200.00
IOV assembly instructions	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Installation instructions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
PC based management compatibility	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Assembled 400W-ready	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
E2-IOV adapter 400W dual	Option	Option	Option	Yes	Yes	Yes
Direct installation option	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Cost with options as specified	\$100.00	\$70.00	\$60.00	\$400.00	\$275.00*	\$175.00

© 2000 by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America. This book is printed on acid-free paper.

"The definitive one of its kind solution for building your own drive." *Design Forum*  
"The typical drive offers drive solutions with a focus on the machine." *Dr. Hoyer*



Looking for an all-in-one package?  
Why not treat yourself to the Eynect?  
EZ-Tour Professional Pack 32

don't know what you get for  
an unbalanced diet. [www.ck12.org](http://www.ck12.org)

- [illegible]

11. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1001-1005.

[illegible]

**A. Antikarov**, *Allegiant* **U.S. Travel System** offer from *Executive*

1. **Identify the main idea of the passage.**

- **Ready-built 62" Tower** with 300W PSU
- **62" High keyboard tray** w/ Windows® keyboard
- **Full 100 specification Apple, Microsoft & Windows® 2.0 spec. monitor, mouse, mousemat and TV lead**
- **600W floppy drive** including/including
- **Parents software bundle** including Microsoft® MSN, Encanto 2.0, Detective 2.0, Photopaint 1.000, Personal/Adult 2.0, Expense 2.0, Project Ideas and Writer
- **All items fully installed, tested and ready to go**



1997

The Howard Foundation's mission is to support research and development in the field of aging. The Foundation's research grants are awarded to individuals and organizations that are engaged in research that will lead to a better understanding of the aging process and the needs of the elderly. The Foundation's research grants are awarded to individuals and organizations that are engaged in research that will lead to a better understanding of the aging process and the needs of the elderly.

Complete EZ-Tower floppy system as described left for an unbelievable **\$249.95**

- **1,799** TowerDrive unit cable for just **£99.00**
- **4,999** 1000MHz processor with 2GB RAM and 80GB memory for just **£99.95**

© 2004 Blackwell Publishing Ltd, *Journal of Internal Medicine* 255: 109–116

**What Constitutes Fluorescence?**  
 (a)  $\lambda_{\text{exc}}$  (b)  $\lambda_{\text{em}}$  (c)  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = \lambda_{\text{em}}$   
 (d)  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} < \lambda_{\text{em}}$  (e)  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} > \lambda_{\text{em}}$



... (just add a P4 mother board) and it becomes the perfect partner for your P3-Dominant A-1000!

There are 40,000 hours of happy delivery, 17,000 of pain, and 10,000 of grief and anguish each year in the United States.

**Final Report of the National  
Commission on the Status of Women**

- [illegible]

Love your A 1300 but need PC compatibility for work or study purposes? Then you need Eysenck's EZPC-Power system. Just **£699.00** gets you a fully loaded

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

- [illegible]

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1039-1043.

© 2000 Blackwell Science Ltd *Journal of Internal Medicine* 247: 111–117

11. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* are the two main photosynthetic pigments in green plants. They are responsible for capturing light energy and converting it into chemical energy through the process of photosynthesis. Chlorophyll a is the primary pigment, while chlorophyll b acts as an accessory pigment, transferring energy to chlorophyll a.

10. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2000; 283: 2686-2692.



1000



...franchise is a...  
...marketing...  
...franchise...



...an extended PC  
...a high-speed PC  
...a high-speed PC



at Zorro Island and  
around the world in  
your old 1969.

Date		Description		Amount		Balance	
1997	1/1	Opening Balance		100.00		100.00	
1997	1/15	Deposit	50.00			150.00	
1997	2/1	Withdrawal		25.00		125.00	
1997	2/15	Deposit	75.00			200.00	
1997	3/1	Withdrawal		100.00		100.00	
1997	3/15	Deposit	125.00			225.00	
1997	4/1	Withdrawal		50.00		175.00	
1997	4/15	Deposit	100.00			275.00	
1997	5/1	Withdrawal		75.00		200.00	
1997	5/15	Deposit	150.00			350.00	
1997	6/1	Withdrawal		100.00		250.00	
1997	6/15	Deposit	200.00			450.00	
1997	7/1	Withdrawal		125.00		325.00	
1997	7/15	Deposit	175.00			500.00	
1997	8/1	Withdrawal		150.00		350.00	
1997	8/15	Deposit	225.00			575.00	
1997	9/1	Withdrawal		175.00		400.00	
1997	9/15	Deposit	250.00			650.00	
1997	10/1	Withdrawal		200.00		450.00	
1997	10/15	Deposit	300.00			750.00	
1997	11/1	Withdrawal		225.00		525.00	
1997	11/15	Deposit	350.00			875.00	
1997	12/1	Withdrawal		250.00		625.00	
1997	12/15	Deposit	400.00			1025.00	
1997	12/31	Balance				1025.00	

# COVER DISKS

## ShapeShifter



We've got bored of giving away free software, so this month we are giving something slightly different - a whole new computer. This harmless looking pair of disks are all you need to take your first steps into the world of Mac emulation.



### Loading instructions

You can run Scale straight from the CD or simply drag the Scale drawer over to your hard drive. Click the MMIO icon to start the main program. Disk users have a simple installer. Boot from your hard drive and insert the first cover disk. Open the disk and then drag the icon that appears over the required destination on your hard drive. Scale will then be installed. You'll find some additional Scale data on the second cover disk. Copy the contents of the Fonts drawer into the Fonts drawer of your Workbench or Sys: partition on your hard drive. The fact that you don't have many data files on the disks doesn't detract from the use of Scale, as you'll be using most of your own graphics, animations and sounds once you get the hang of it.

**D**itching the Amiga for the Mac is a little gift we'd never ask you to swallow. But taking little nibbles out of the Apple can be very sweet indeed, which is why we've given you a full load of ShapeShifter and associated goodies this month. All you need to do is supply the Mac ROM (see this month's Mac emulation feature for more details).

Setting up ShapeShifter is actually quite straightforward, but here's a window-to-window footprint method to get the most out of your new Mac emulation system.

### Graphics

The graphics window is where you configure your Amiga display hardware, be it a built-in chipset or a Cyberlight or other sort of graphics card.

You can also choose to display in a monochrome Windows-style window. If you make any other selection, you need to define a screenmode from the standard requester. Most modern Mac software expects at least a 640x480 screen although it is possible to get away with less in some cases. Unless you're getting into some very serious power usage, leave the "1 monitor" setting alone.

A real Mac (and an Amiga with more than one display device) can

spread a Mac desktop across multiple physical monitors, which is most commonly used in OTP houses with "page size" monitors, which are much taller than they are wide.

The refresh rate depends on your machine's speed - the slower your machine and the more colors you ask from ShapeShifter, the higher this value should be (and subsequently the less frequent the screen updates).

If you have a sufficiently fast machine (an OAD or OBD) you can enable MMIO refresh, which does a "smart" refresh of the screen, and lock this value in at 1 (most frequent updates).

### Volumes/Disks

Let ShapeShifter know what it should consider its hard drives, or virtual hard drives. In the unregistered ShapeShifter we've included an CD; you will only be able to use the Filedisk 1 and 2 files, as the keyfile unlocks access to real Amiga devices such as hard drives and CD-ROMs.

In the Filedisk 1 path, you should put the full path and name of the boot Filedisk we've included and assign it as the boot partition. Filedisk 2 is for the Filedisk you want to explore - sites, games, tools, etc.

Note that it is highly recommended that you copy the Filedisk







#### VIDEO PLAYER POWER

off of the CUED and onto a hard disk, preferably a fast one with lots of AmigaDOS buffers assigned to it.

You can access it from CD (but the Shuffler will not be able to save to it, which could cause problems), and the access will be slowed down considerably.

#### Floppy

A simple window to determine which of your floppy drives ShapeShifter should access, and whether it should take exclusive control of them.

This can be useful if you want to keep your Amiga virus checks from chomping on an alien format.

#### SCSI

Enabled when you register ShapeShifter, you can directly access any SCSI device connected to your Amiga under the emulator. How, however, the CD-ROM access you get with the registered version.

#### Memory

Test, test, you allocate your

Amiga's memory to the Mac task. For best results, you should start ShapeShifter before launching and quitting from all sorts of Amiga applications which can fragment your memory and leave very little continuous space for the Mac.

Graphics board users are cautioned to leave a cushion of 2-MiB for video memory above and beyond what the emulation asks in the maximum available.

Also, a modern Mac will want at least 8-MiB available to it before you can really do anything useful.

#### Serial

Designates which Amiga port will act as the Mac's modem port and which as the Mac's printer port.

You can also directly access the ports on A-Max or Emprint cards – so don't chuck them just because ShapeShifter's arrived on the CD.

#### Network

You can give the Mac access to Amiga networking hardware if you want to get it up on a LAN or similar.

#### Miscellaneous

The leftover bits and bobs, mostly useful for controlling audio.

If you are really strapped for CPU power you can disable the audio, and if you're using an A41 device you can redirect the Mac's audio through it. (However, the audio is better regardless of whether you use a Paula or a 16-bit A41 card.)

#### Speeding up video

The best way to speed up ShapeShifter's video performance is with a graphics card and a faster processor.

If that's not immediately in the cards, you can get modest gains on ECS and AGA performance through the use of External Video Drivers (EVDs). EVDs are also used for some graphic boards not directly supported by ShapeShifter, such as the Rastex II, Rastex 23 direct, and A4140 direct.

EVDs allocate a large portion of memory to buffer the chunky-to-planar conversions that are the major bottleneck in the display of Mac screens. This allows a much better level of performance. Some EVDs have been tuned to AGA-specific modes, while others enhance ECS performance as well.

You can even use HAMM under TurboVid if you have a bit of a sense of humor, or need a simulated 16-bit display in a serious pinch. You'll want to check the documentation for each EVD before installing it – in general, you activate it by selecting "External" in the ShapeShifter Graphics preferences and pointing to the EVD you wish to use. The EVD docs will tell you how to configure your screen – most tell you which resolution and refresh rate pairs work best together. Some, like TurboVid, have external prefs programs to organize additional information like palette handling.

On this month's CUED, we've included a starter Mac hard-disk (virtual hard disk) with some of the more useful Mac files out there. While by no means a complete resource, you should find enough to get your teeth on.

#### Shuffit Expander

As indispensable to Mac users as UHF is to us, Shuffit format files have an, ah, ending, and it is by far the most popular compression method used by Macs.

Shuffit Expander also decodes Mac (Sintex 1) .spj files, which is also a bit different than a compressed file. Easy to use, just point a file to expand and let it go to work.

#### ResEdit

If you had 18,000 pieces of Mac software, 9,000 would treat you like a child and keep you from touching the real power of the machine.

This is the other one. ResEdit is the first stop for Mac hackers, and lets you poke around inside any Mac executable, checking out the code, the dialog boxes, and other fun stuff.

Or a more practical note, it allows you to change the type and content of any file which can help you get around pretty problems when transferring files from other platforms.

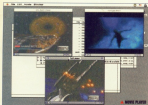
#### Acrobat Reader

The way to read PDF files, hands down. Like most Mac software, it's fairly intuitive to use.

Keep in mind that you can resize the window at will and use the magnifying glass at the bottom of the screen to render down the page in fit your window, if desired, or blow it up and scroll across.

Remember that there are "links" in PDF documents just like in a web browser – the open hand will change to a pointing finger on links you can click on.





## MoviePlayer

For watching QuickTimes: Opening up a MOV file will bring up a viewer window.

You can use the menu or keyboard shortcuts (Menu E, 1, 2, 3) to change its size or just use the mouse. The controls along the bottom let you play, pause, move forward or back a single frame, and, using the slider, skip to any portion of the video.

For a bit of fun you can set MoviePlayer to "loop forward and back" and skip ahead to the end of the video, so it'll turn around and play it in reverse. Hours of fun.

## ZTerm

A reasonably good term program which is comfortable to use because it doesn't constantly force you to act like a Mac user and beg it to do things for you.

It's speedy even on slower systems, automatically resizes when you change window size, and you can just dial using direct modem commands if you like. The ASCII support is quite good as well.



## JPEGView

You'll believe it now that it's basically just launching the program and opening a JPEG, right?

There are a number of options you can play with in preferences to control the quality of the display.

Keep in mind that because the Mac tends to use a single screen for every purpose, it has to change pictures on the fly if you do things like open up a bunch of JPEGs with colors not in your standard desktop. So, not every image may look right at the same time.

If you use a 24 bit desktop, however, this won't be a problem (You'll take a big speed hit, though).

## Graphic Converter

A pretty decent shareware image conversion and basic image processing program.

It supports PP as well as JPEG and a host of other formats, with a nice and fast work window.

## POVRay

The multipatform public domain renderer. We have Amiga versions too, but if you want to see how others are doing it and happen to like the way they added a Mac GUI to the extent that there is one, it may be worth checking this version out.

## Chuck's Printer Driver

Such a wonderfully compact and practical piece of software you'd swear it was written by an Amiga guy. The Mac's Chooser can be a wonderful thing and Mac printer drivers tend to be very good, but the problem is that they're all very goofy. They become a problem for us emulators because we are not feeding real live Mac printers up to our computers. Chuck's Printer Driver solves the problem by being a generic interface for a variety

of File Buddy for most users will be to change the file type and file creator tags.

ShapeShifter's importation of files from AmigaOS leaves something to be desired, and sometimes it's difficult to tell a Mac app to open a particular file if the app doesn't load it even the file. By using FileBuddy's GUI, you can tell "Make this file look like a Word doc" or "Make this file look like a JPEG" to various applications.

Particularly useful is to make files look like the executable binaries that they are - sometimes when you bring across a Mac executable, the system gets confused and thinks it's a text file, and will refuse to allow you to launch it.

By temporarily assigning the file in question the same characteristics as another random exec file, you can trick the system into letting you



of major printers.

The odds are that you'll either be using one of these printers, or a printer with a 100% compatibility mode with one of these printers. It's easy to configure, it's unobtrusive, and it's yours. This will likely be your one and only printer driver for your entire Mac emulation career.

## File Buddy

File Buddy is another in that sparseness of Mac programs which gives you some real power over what's going on in the computer and in the filesystem.

Whereas Pencil is like a platform idea into the innards of a Mac file, File Buddy is more like a comfortably warm in the 4 foot depth - you can get totally wet but you're in no danger of drowning. The top app

launch is FileBuddy can also be a big help in consuming hard drive space. Mac programs like to stick usable preference files all over your hard drive, and those of course don't go away if you back the main program.

For a novice Mac user it can be hard to go through by hand and know what you can throw away and what needs to be saved - File Buddy will analyze preference programs to see if their creators are still on your drive, and if not will let you throw them away.

You will be completely amazed at just how fast and how much space also that these little buggers accumulate.

▲ FILE BUDDY

▲ GRAPHIC CONVERTER



# Take it to the Macs!



**Now you've got  
ShapeShifter from  
this month's cover  
disks and CD, find  
out how to get the  
most from your free  
computer.**

**T**he Amiga is a wonderfully flexible computer. It can make beautiful music, take us to different worlds, and browse the web like nobody's business, all before lunch. And in a smoothly multitasking environment, too.

It's so flexible, in fact, that it can be made to emulate different computers and even game consoles and arcade games. Of all the machines an Amiga can mimic, none works so well as the Macintosh.

Apple's earlier Macintosh machines, before their move to PowerPC, were based on the 68000 chip series, just like our Amigas. Through a little bit of software trickery, the Macintosh operating system (MacOS) from here on in can be made to run side by side with the Amiga's OS. This virtual Mac uses your Amiga's chipsets or graphics card to simulate a Mac display, grabs a chunk of your Amiga's memory for its own, and can use your hard, floppy, and CD-ROM drives for its own purposes as well.

Because the Amiga spends very little of its time emulating a CPU (it just uses the Amiga's) or any sort of custom hardware (because, basically, the Mac doesn't have any worth speaking of), Mac emulators run very, very fast—much or less as fast as a real Mac would if you're using a graphics card. (More on system performance later.)

## Transferring the Mac ROM

For this tutorial, we will presume you are using Shapeshifter as included with this issue of CU. We will also refer to the Mac in question as "your Mac", on the presumption that you own one which you will use for this purpose. Shapeshifter can use the ROM from a variety of 68000 Macs. If you are using an i40 or 260 machine, you should try to find a machine with a 1Mb ROM (in general, the newer machines). 68010 users can and should use 512K ROMs to save memory.

**NOTE:** For those who will be using 1Mb ROMs, this procedure is substantially easier if you have a high density floppy drive. For this to work, you will need CrossDOS installed and operational on your Amiga. (Drag PCB into Drive/Bootdrive, CrossDOS is so useful you should be running it anyway.) You will also need a blank MS-DOS floppy. The file must be running some form of PC floppy software. Most Macs which are being well-maintained will automatically recognize a PC disk, just as a CrossDOS-enabled Amiga does.

1. From the Shapeshifter directory, copy the SaveROM.hqx program onto the PC floppy. Take the floppy to your Mac, and put it in.
2. Use Stuffit Expander on the Mac and convert the SaveROM.hqx program into SaveROM. Stuffit should handle this for you automatically (Stuffit is not a part of the MacOS, but it's as much an integral part of any Macintosh as LRA is for us. Odds are that your Mac will have it already installed.)
3. Run the resulting SaveROM program on the Mac. The output it'll generate is in German, but all you need to know how to do is recognize one word. If you i40-HSE see the word "NICHT", click on the "Speichern" button. Now, you can save the "ROM Image" to your 800Kb floppy disk. If you i50 see the word "NICHT", it means that this ROM will not be appropriate for Shapeshifter, and you will have to seek elsewhere.
4. Take the disk back to your Amiga, and pop it in. Copy the file you just saved into the Shapeshifter directory on your hard drive. Rename the ROM image to be "Shapeshifter.ROM", with the space, just like the base file already in the directory.



## ... and how we do it

Mac emulators have been available on the Amiga for some time now, around 10 years. The first Mac emulator, A-Mac, was a "better than nothing" Mac emulation. It recreated a black and white Mac which could run MacOS System 6, a single-tasking nasty little thing. It took over your Amiga, which meant you couldn't just hit back to the Workbench whenever you felt like it (in fact, you had to reboot). A variation on the theme, A-Mac II+, was an internal card which allowed you to use Amiga floppy drives with the emulation. Mac double density floppies are the most and fastest on the planet, so it required this card just to absorb your Amiga's drive to read them.

For a long time, A-Mac II+ was the final word. System 7, which multiplexed after a fashion, came around, an old color Macs. It wasn't until Jim Drew and Joe Fenton came up with Emplant that colour Mac emulation, capable of running System 7 and capable of something with the AmigaOS, was possible. A-Mac IV came out around the same time and offered some of the same features, but Emplant development soon shot ahead and A-Mac faded away. For a long time, the Emplant software was tied to a Zorro-card, which finally went away with the release of Emplant Lite. Emplant is no longer supported although you might be able to find a user bootstrappers combo or the original Emplant Lite disk used. By the time its development ended, it was decent but flawed.

While Emplant still required the purchase of an expensive and largely discredited Zorro board, a clever German student named Christian Bauer contacted Shapeshifter as a self-made Mac emulator. Shapeshifter did what everyone wanted in Mac emulation: multiplexed with the Amiga, ran the important applications, and best of all was shareware, with a registration fee far less than the buy-in price on Emplant. You'll find

Shapeshifter with this issue of CU. Mr. Bauer has largely moved on to other projects and Shapeshifter has not been updated for a full year, but it is still a capable emulation.

The latest arrival is Fusion, from the same team who brought us Emplant. Fusion got off to a shaky start but in its latest version has proven to be by many measures the best Mac emulator we've ever had.

## What you'll need

To watch their magic, all of the multitasking Mac emulators, like Shapeshifter and Fusion require a small system patch in your startup sequence. This patch allocates a small portion of memory necessary to pull off the trick of running two operating systems at once. The other pieces in the puzzle are the Mac operating system, which like our own comes in two parts: a ROM and software. The software is easy enough to get - Apple even makes System 7.0.1, an early but serviceable version, freely available. The Mac ROM is a slightly different kettle of fish. Unlike the OS disks, it is not free for download or on the shelf of your local Mac shop. In order to run, Mac emulators need the data in the Mac ROM, but there's obviously no place to play the ROM in on your Amiga.

The solution is to get an image of the Mac ROM to feed to the emulator. Technically, this requires that you own a Mac ROM. Some

Mac emulation began, these ROMs have been extremely easy and extremely difficult to obtain through official channels.

The simplest solution is to own a Mac and take the image from it. While there have been no legal test cases to our knowledge, the best legal interpretation we can get is

**\$29.95  
OUT NOW!**

Available in paperback and hardcover. Includes a free CD-ROM with the game and a bonus CD-ROM with the game and a bonus CD-ROM with the game.

**"One Escapee is one hell of an experience. 9.5"**  
- The Designer

**"Game of the Year 1997"**  
Amiga Player

**"CU Superstar Award"**  
CU AMERICA

**ONE ESCAPEE**

**UNIVERSAL PUBLISHING ORDER DETAILS**

**Publisher:**  
**STH INC.**  
Software Systems, 15 Royal Terrace,  
Barnetby, Lincoln, LN41 6LJ  
Tel: +44 (0)1509 702 100  
www.sthinc.com  
E: ssth@sthi.com  
M: 01509 702 100

**Distributor:**  
**Wizard Science**  
Robert Spencer, 51 Hove, Hove, Brighton,  
BN1 6SD, Sussex, BN1 6SD  
Tel: +44 (0)1273 826000  
www.wizardscience.co.uk  
E: wizard@wizardscience.co.uk  
M: 01273 826000



## Systems check

Running the modern emulators (ShapeShifter and Pseudo) doesn't take a lot of hardware to get started, although the more the merrier.

**Minimal practical system:** 80286, 8-10Mb RAM total, 40Mb free hard drive space

**Minimal recommended system:** AM386/25 or better, 16Mb RAM, 100Mb free hard drive space, VGA or graphics card

**Preferred system:** 486/50 or better, 16Mb RAM, 200Mb free hard drive space, VGA, Graftin or graphics card, high density floppy, CD-ROM

**Ideal system:** 68000, 12Mb RAM, 300Mb free hard drive space, 24-bit graphics card, high density floppies, CD-ROM

### Why high-density floppy?

A standard Amiga floppy drive, as found on most machines except the A4000 desktop and some A3000s, holds 880K of data, or 700K on an MS-DOS formatted drive. Macs, too, had drives like these which held 880K of data but for reasons understood only to Apple, the mechanisms changed the speed at which the floppy spun depending on the physical location of the head on the disk. This makes 880K Mac floppies totally unreadable by common Amiga or PC floppy drives.

When it came time for Macs to get high-density floppy drives and disk formats, Apple wised up and created a format which, with software help, an Amiga high-density floppy drive can handle.

So, an Amiga user with a high-density floppy drive can access Mac high-density floppies, but not Mac double-density floppies. An Amiga user with a double-density drive cannot read any Mac disks. The only practical way to access a Mac double-density disk requires A-Mac hardware.

Not having access to Mac floppies may significantly limit your access to Mac software. You can use the Califormet board to add a high-density drive to your Amiga system. If you choose to forgo floppy access, you will still be able to use CD-ROMs, but it is much more convenient to have both.

that if you own the ROM, you can use its data on whichever machine you choose provided you don't use it on multiple machines at once.

Follow the instructions in the Mac RDM panel to get the ROM image from your Mac to your Amiga.

## You're now done

If you DO need the 1Mb ROM image but DO NOT have a high-density floppy drive, this will not work as written, since the low-density MS-DOS disk format is only 700K in length. You have a few options in this case:

1. Run out and buy a high-density floppy drive or a Califormet. It's the most expensive option in the short run but it's also the most useful, as your 880K Amiga floppy will be totally useless under Mac emulation but the high-density floppy will serve in handy both for your Amiga and the Mac emulator.

2. Compress the Mac RDM image on the Mac with something you know you can uncompress on the Amiga, like LHA or Zip. The problem here is that not every Mac uses LHA or Zip, so you may not have these files installed. You can also potentially fit a program if the compression program makes around and "Macifies" the file too much, adding extraneous junk which will confuse the uncompression program on the Amiga.

3. Transport the RDM back to your Amiga via a pair of modems, or a null modem. This can get tricky because the Mac then to connect around with files it transfers. If you choose this route, be sure you tell the Mac some program explicitly to transport straight binary not MacBinary or any other such nonsense.

It's really far better just to bite the bullet and get the high-density floppies.

## Traitor!

But wait a second. Aren't you reading month

## Mad Macs

There are plenty of reasons for wanting to emulate a Mac, a little experience with one will make you appreciate your Amiga more than ever.

- **Macs don't respond to disk eject buttons.** In fact 'real' Macs don't even have them at all! Before you can leave your disk back you have to drag it into the Trashcan. You might even find the Shut Down option refuses to do so unless you first insert a previously used disk. Once you've given it the disk, it will spit it out again like an angry baby, then go to sleep.
- **Macs have no shell.** You will soon be screaming for a chance to open a shell or a command window, I assure you.
- **The Mac insists on assigning a filetype to everything on its hard drive.** This is convenient because you can click on any file and, in theory, bring up the application which created it. In practice, it means that applications which should let you try to open a file will refuse because the file in question may not look like the right sort of file.
- **If the Mac asks you for a floppy, and you don't have it, you're screwed** because the disk requester knows of other tasks!
- **Mac 'multitasking' isn't as user-friendly as Amiga multitasking.** There can be huge delays between task switches, and sometimes a task will occupy the system for so long it's impossible to tell if the machine has crashed or if the computer is just 'thinking really hard'.
- **When a 'real' Mac locks up and you're forced to remove the power supply to restart, once it reboots it tells you off for not using the software reset.**
- **A typically useful Mac error message: "There was an error"**
- **Here's another favorite: "The application 'unknown' has unexpectedly quit"**
- **You have to tell the Mac how much memory an application is going to use before you use it. If it needs more than you've given it, you have to restart.**



An unexpected error occurred,  
because an error occurred.

OK



■ Screen-tile design and control of *Atlix Revolution*

after month in this very magazine... in editorials, in reviews, in letters... that above all also seemed to support Amiga hardware and software manufacturers? By using Mac software, won't it be hurting the Amiga market?

The short answer is "no." For starters, you're still going to be using an Amiga... and while we, you'll continue using AmigaOS for the substantial majority of your computing tasks. Similarly, that's where you'll continue to spend your money. I'm one of the biggest emulation buffs you'll find but I still invest most of my time, energy, and resources into the Amiga.

There's virtually no Mac hardware that you can hook up to your emulation system. If anything, getting involved with Mac emulation will only encourage you to buy more Amiga-specific hardware like a faster accelerator or platform-neutral hardware like CD-ROMs, a bigger hard drive, more memory. And as for software... there are titles and applications you can run under the MacOS that you can't under the AmigaOS.

For whatever reason, the Amiga market has not provided it. You might turn to your Mac emulator to fulfill those occasional needs, but if experience is to be any guide, you'll continue to turn to Amiga vendors for software solutions as your first option whenever possible.

## Mac power

By now what to expect from your new grande Mac, we should take a look at how your Amiga hardware comes into play from start to finish.

We've already established that CD-ROMs and high-density floppies are a Good Thing. The Mac emulator will address your serial and parallel ports as the "readers" and "writers" ports of a Mac, respectively, and you can take advantage of any sort of third-party add-

on serial/parallel boards you might have. As for memory, aside from "the more the merrier," you can only pull memory for the Mac emulation from a single bank. If you're using more than 4280 emulation boards, this isn't a problem because you have only one SIMM slot... make it at least a 768M.

If you're using a board with more slots, like most 4280 or 4800 boards, your mileage will vary. On boards such as the Cybertone Mark II, any combination of SIMMs is automatically mapped into a single bank. On others, you may have to ensure SIMMs are paired and of the same size in order to be counted as part of the same bank.

That leaves just the two most important considerations: CPU power and graphics speed. The former case is pretty good news, the latter is mixed.

The nice thing about your CPU is that, for all intents and purposes, it will process Mac applications as fast as a real Mac with the same CPU would (and for 980 users, you can boast having a Mac faster than any 68000 Mac Apple ever produced since they never used 68000). A caveat here is that for best performance, you should try to have a CPU with an MMU (rather than EC processors).

As for graphics, well, the ECS and AGA chips have been much redesigned as of late and this will have to be another case. As wonderful as

they are for some applications, they're not as well suited for the rigors of Mac emulation which involves the same sort of "shoddy" pixels that cause headaches for 3D game programmers. For black and white emulation, emulation is blindingly fast, but if you try to throw it into 256 colors, you'll notice some considerable loss of performance. There are two fixes around this.

1. Buy a graphics card. Beg, borrow, or steal to lower your A1200 if you haven't already. Fit the Zero slots in your big-boy Amiga, whatever. All but the most obscure cards are supported by both Shapshotter and Fusion, and just about anything gives you better performance in 256 color mode, not to mention bigger resolutions and higher colour depths (the Mac can operate in 16 and 24 bit mode).

2. Use the ECS/AGA graphics screen enhancements for Shapshotter (Fusion also has special modes for this purpose). These third party add-ons, called EDOs, allow you to make modest gains in the speed of Mac display using Amiga chips by grabbing on bits of memory. If you choose to go this route, then, you'll probably need to make an extra investment in a new Shift or two.

## Justification

There are some solid, tangible good reasons for having a Mac at your disposal. In no par-



£29.95  
OUT NOW!

# Forgotten Forever

...Summer 98

SUCCESSFUL PURCHASE ORDER DETAILS

<p><b>Publisher:</b>            Gaudens Software, 10 Pleasant Street,          Mendon, MA 01945          Tel: +1 (508) 548-0000  <a href="mailto:customerservice@gph.com">customerservice@gph.com</a>  <a href="http://www.gaudens.com">www.gaudens.com</a>          If ordering via Software Systems, we accept          your master creditcard or VISA          If ordering via cheque or postal order, please          make payable to: Gaudens Software          Please add £1.50 postage on all orders (not          the British Outside Europe &amp; Australasia)</p>	<p><b>Distributor</b>  <b>Weird Science</b>          Stuart Bennett, 25 Hoxton Road, Box          Business Park, Hoxton, London, E14 4NS          Tel: +44 (0) 20 2403800  <a href="mailto:info@weirdscience.co.uk">info@weirdscience.co.uk</a>  <a href="http://www.weirdscience.co.uk">www.weirdscience.co.uk</a>          If ordering via cheque or postal order, please          make payable to: Stuart Bennett          If ordering via cheque or postal order, please          add postage at £1.50 for the first item and £0.50          each extra item. Postages to outside</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



Stellar order, here's just some of the gains, you'll make by setting aside a few measly hundred MB of hard drive space and investing a little time in getting your Amiga Macintosh.

**Access to the Adobe Acrobat PDF document format.** A couple of years ago, the people at Adobe came up with the "Portable Document Format" which was a way of embedding graphics and text, along with a basic hypertext-based selection system, into a single file. It's basically a address of Postscript. It's also become very pervasive in the world at large—a number of companies which provide downloadable documents, ranging from printer manuals to train schedules, do so in PDF format.

While it's not strictly true to say that there is no PDF support on the Amiga, what we do have is in the form of ported Unix utilities which leave a great deal to be desired (Kghostscript and xPDF). Adobe does not support the Amiga, unfortunately, with its Acrobat Reader program, but if you can just flip over to the Mac side and load it up, you gain access to a lot of documents that would have been closed books otherwise.

**Full access to Mac CD-ROMs:** The Mac uses a custom format called HFS for its floppies, and this format is often employed on Mac CD-ROMs as well.

Not every Amiga is equipped to read all the goodies on an HFS CD, but if there's the data pictures, audio clips, video clips on the CD you'd like to have access on the Amiga, you can just go through the MacOS and then use the emulator to shuttle the data.



Click  
Amiga in  
win.

access to an Amiga partition. Get the most out of your Amiga: OK, so you've invested some real money in your system, right? Why not push it to the max and get access to absolutely as much software as you can without going out and buying another system altogether?

**See QuickTime as they were meant to be seen:** Granted, QuickTime is starting to catch up, but QuickTime originated on the Mac, the movies are of far better quality than AVis and require less overhead than MPEGs. That's really quite nice, and if you view them through Mac emulation you'll get a much better idea of what everybody's on



Click **Amiga** in **win**.

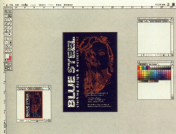
## Mac in a minute

A full tutorial on the MacOS is outside the scope of this article, but since we're getting you into this maze, here's a quick look at the basics.

- Remember that 80% of Macs have mice with just one mouse button—so just use your left mouse button for everything.
- You can roughly think of the MacOS as AmigaOS, with all of the shell and GUI access removed, more idiosyncrasy, and a lot of possessiveness. When you drag the disk icon into the Trashcan to eject it, you can then remove the disk or CD without the OS getting confused.
- The "Apple" menu is a sort of "Tools" menu, where you find a bunch of programs you can quickly launch. It is also where programs tend to put their "About" window command, The File, Edit, and View menus act much like you'd expect, although keep in mind that in the File menu is the very powerful "Find" command. The Label menu is just for pointless eye-candy tagging of Macs. In the "Special" menu you find the very important "shut down" command. You have to ask MacOS for permission to shut it off. Doing this will kill the emulation cleanly.
- The upper-right hand icon, which starts out showing a little Mac, is the task menu. This is the analog of our screen-flop gauglets, and lets you pick which program to bring up to the front.
- Many Amiga programs give you the option of opening on the Workbench or on a separate screen. There's so much thing as a separate screen for the Mac—virtually everything opens up on the Finder screen in a window. You can hide windows using the task menu, or drag them almost entirely off the visible screen.
- Real Macs can change resolutions more or less on the fly as the Amiga can, although under ShapeShifter you are stuck with the single resolution you select before launching the emulation. Pardon asks more like a real Mac in this regard.
- Mac keyboards are a bit different than Amiga keyboards—they can have 12 (or more) function keys, PC-style editing keys, and other stuff. Most important to remember is that your left and right Amiga keys act like the "four-leaf clover" symbol key as you see for keyboard shortcuts in macs.

- The Apple menu has a lot of what you'd expect to find in an Amiga's Prefs directory. The Control Panels window has most of the goodies, while the Chooser program is more or less your printer selection window.
- Using your Amiga's SCSI port, you can attach a number of common peripherals like scanners and ZIP drives and use them on the Mac side as well.
- Software that was not written to be 32-bit clean will not work under Mac emulation most of the time. (This includes a lot of software from the 80s, before the Mac went to System 7.)





▲ Floating interface. Blue Steel Frontload type courtesy of Pongee Creative Design.

about when they say they want a full, real implementation of QuickTime on the Amiga. Access to mainstream applications:

It's a sore subject, but there simply are times when nothing but PageMaker, Wordperfect, Word, etc. will do. If nothing else, it'll let you take a little more work home from the office than you might have been able to before without having to put a whole new system on your desk.

**Other emulators.** Planning an emulator through an emulator isn't a ridiculous prospect in this case. In particular, the Mac has better Sage (GameGear) emulators, has an Atari ST emulator that at least works, and other near-into emulators like the Apple I.

**More games.** Last November we ran a feature on Mac gaming, and everything we said then is still true. While we've been getting some top-rank commercial ports lately, not everything which the publishers gave the Amiga a miss on will get retroactively port-

ed, and Mac emulation is a great way to fill those gaps.

## The Future

Mac 68k machines are out of production, but there are still an awful lot of them out there, so software continues to be released which supports them — although the numbers are diminishing.

Already, MacOS 8 has topped the sale and alternative number of 68k Macs from the compatibility list. Including, by the way, the hardware that Shapeshifter emulates. Fusion can be made to work with MacOS 8.1. There's still 14 years of development to explore before you have to worry about what's being released now.

Fusion is supposed to get PPC support, allowing us to emulate PowerPc's — and then the Roadquakes open onto road.

## Mac by public demand

The standard version of Shapeshifter only allows you to use Mediasix — large AmigaDOS files which simulate real hard drives. You'll want to attach a large number of buffers (caddibuffers 500 or so) to drive the Mediasix in only, and even then, Mediasix are very slow. Using real devices or partitions is much, much faster — don't be turned off by the speed of your emulation with the Mediasix, because it's not a true indicator.

If you get enthralled of Mac emulation and want to take the plunge, you'll have to decide between registering Shapeshifter or buying Fusion.

Shapeshifter is cheaper, but the author has more or less suspended development, and has been very slow at times about sending out keyfiles. Fusion might seem pricey by comparison, but you get a more actively supported product, and Fusion's AmigaDOS file sharing is superior to Shapeshifter's.

Either way you go, you'll be getting a full-blown Mac under the bonnet. We can't make any guarantees as to your personal performance, but we can assure you that your Amiga won't mind or get too involved. ■

Jason Compton



▲ I couldn't resist; see another emulator.

£29.95

# FOUNDATION

**Foundation coming... March/April 98**  
Order Your Copy Now

**Publisher:**  
**WIND SILENCE**

Software, 15 Russell Terrace,  
Burslem, Stoke, ST6 1TT, UK  
Tel: +44 (0)1829 727189  
email: sales@windsilence.com  
www.windsilence.com

**Distributors:**  
**WIND SILENCE**  
Software, 15 Russell Terrace,  
Burslem, Stoke, ST6 1TT, UK  
Tel: +44 (0)1829 727189  
email: sales@windsilence.com  
www.windsilence.com

**Exporting via cheaper or better price, please make payment to: Software Solutions**

**Please add 10% postage on all orders outside UK/Europe. Outside Europe is double.**

**Order by:**  
1. **WIND SILENCE**  
2. **WIND SILENCE**  
3. **WIND SILENCE**  
4. **WIND SILENCE**  
5. **WIND SILENCE**  
6. **WIND SILENCE**  
7. **WIND SILENCE**  
8. **WIND SILENCE**  
9. **WIND SILENCE**  
10. **WIND SILENCE**

# PowerUP Update

**At last the decision has been made. We take a look at the consequences of the choice by Amiga Inc. to officially go with a 680x0 and PPC dual processor solution.**

► Candy Factory files PPC emulator files (this, PPC support is coming in thick and fast from the Amiga's established software development community.

**N**ow that the PowerPC has been named the official next-generation CPU of the immediate future (and not, for the first time, mind you, Amiga pointers and pundits have scrambled to make sense of the announcement. In last month's CU you read the GSA released by Amiga, Inc. engineer Joe Tene, the same document spread far and wide all over the Amiga world. But that document itself raises questions and demands clarity, so we've spent the month tracking down answers and informed insight on what the announcement means.

The proverbial hammer's about in the form of Mr. Tene was quick to point out that while the immediate roadmap calls for a PowerPC6000 processor combination, phase 3's CyberStorm and Blizzard PPC boards would not be the first and last word in PPC6000 computing for Amiga users. This is good news for potential users of machines based around new developments like the iBooklet motherboard, which has a custom slot for PPC expansion, but is not equipped to accept A1000 or 4860 boards, and great news for companies such as ACT and Risc who have expressed an interest in producing alternative PPC solutions. Presumably, phase 3 and other interested PPC6000 manufacturers will work with Amiga, Inc. to come up with an OS and software development standard which will be compatible across a variety of hardware.

Tene also re-emphasized that this decision does not exclude AmigaOS develop-

ment for other CPUs. The PPC6000 combination is rightly seen as the option providing the greatest compatibility along with a strong speed growth path into the future, but other processors can be explored by companies with AmigaOS licenses.

If you were holding out for a different sort of solution — say, that proposed by HGS and their Project Alpha — all is not lost or written in stone. Such projects will continue, provided the companies make the necessary arrangements with Amiga, Inc. and consider their plans to be viable. In the specific case of Project Alpha, compatibility issues will be met through software emulation, and through the use of the InsideOut hardware.

**Market Timing, Range and Future**  
**"No other processor would have made sense."**

Project Alpha Amigas are likely to be at least as compatible with future PPC Amigas as the Duxis is with today's generation, and it's hard to fault HGS that they remain interested and keen on the Alpha project.

There have been widely varying opinions on this theme, with many technically oriented users concerned that the two processor combination is not an ideal one, and some more excitedly types making points on the internet decrying the Amiga's doom as a result of tying itself to the old technology of the 68K. Much of this was caused by several confusions that arose from assumptions and misreadings of the original statement.

One concern was that it was tying the future of the Amiga to a single third party company, but this stemmed from a simple



misreading of the situation — or a misreading of the text. As Joe Tene has subsequently pointed out, PowerPC does not mean PowerPC PowerPC is just the first product of this type to hit the market — as Joe put it, the right place at the right time.

Much of the remaining concern stemmed from people who felt that it was suicidal to move a computer by evolution rather than revolution. People of the sharp end of the industry who are brave enough to have been universally positive — even released — at the decision. There is simply no other way in which the Amiga could gain modern computing power without fracturing the market even further, something which it is generally thought the Amiga could not survive.

## The Emulation gap

The example of the last personal computer to make the transition from 68K to PowerPC, the Macintosh, indicates that emulation of the 68K processor is possible. That it has not been selected by Amiga, Inc. concerned a great many people. One of the company's chief goals, however, is compatibility 68K emulators do exist — albeit it had one running, but were unable to achieve a compatible and acceptable fast implementation.

The Mac community also suffered a great deal of disappointment when they found that their PowerMacs were substantially slower at running their existing applications than their old 680 and 640 machines had been. As CU Amiga's informal Dave



DEC 31:1999 : 23:59 : 58

# Millennium Bug

With Doomsday fast approaching, otherwise known as January 1st 2000, can you be sure your Amiga is safe from the Millennium Bug?

**G**ot a minute? Have a quick look at the photo you carry around with you. Check your debit or credit card details. Pay particular attention to the expiry date: does it say something like 99/99?

Whoopee - your card isn't valid 2000. Intensely. In fact, if your bank doesn't catch a bug and update its systems, there's a good chance that on Monday 1st January, 2000 you won't be able to take any money out of your account. In fact, according to the bank's computer systems, you could due to be born for another 1000 years.

Common to popular belief, the biggest Millennium problem isn't about whether it happens on the first day of 2000 or the first day of 2001. But, whatever any computer systems are going to be left in a working order after 2000. You could think the "Millennium Bug" problem is all hype, but it's not. The world's not that it's going to cost 1000 billion worldwide to sort it out, and yet it's going to affect you and your Amiga too.

In this special, other computers aren't going to enjoy the New Year either.



time, you're going to look at how computers store information. Specifically, you have to examine how computers deal with dates. The best way to start is to look at how the humble PC is going to have big problems.

## PC problems

The PC's date dilemma is due to the BIOS – the basic Input/Output System. On a modern PC, the BIOS has a number of dates. It looks after the disk drives and various peripheral buses, it operates the serial and parallel ports and most importantly of all, it controls the Real Time Clock.

The RTC is a piece of electronic circuitry which 'ticks' at precise intervals. At each tick, an entry in the PC's CMOS memory is incremented. The CMOS memory is very low power memory, and it contains information vital to the PC, such as the hard drive configuration. It also reserves a few bytes for the date and time. As the computer boots up, the operating system (Windows, DOS, Linux and so on) obtains the current time from the CMOS and uses this to set its own software clock.

The problem is that there is a flaw in most computer BIOS programs. Although there is a byte of data reserved for storing the century date (currently '19'), this byte is frequently not updated. So, at the end of 1999, when the time clicks on and the century switches to 2000, the '19' will remain at '19'. The year value in the CMOS will then become '1900'.

If the computer is running at the time of the year change, nothing much will happen. As the computer is running, the operating system's real-time clock will be in charge. Periodically the operating systems in use will happily move to 1/1/2000 with no prob-

## Amiga Millennium Bugs

### Datetimestamps

The Amiga stores the dates associated with files as two digits. In the new years ahead, files will appear with creation dates of 18-Jan-00 and there will be no way of telling these apart from files created on 10th January 1900.

This means that the List command options such as 'since' and 'upto' will no longer work, until all your files are updated to the new century. This could potentially create problems for backup programs and development systems, which use the timestamp to determine which files are the most recent.

Specific applications that won't work include Final Calc, which won't accept dates with years of more than two digits. You can enter 00 for 2000, but when sorted, this will appear before any other 18xx dates. Dates can be displayed in two or four digit form, but only dates from 1900 to 1999 will be accepted. Other potential failures are any packages that use time and dates to sort or process data. That includes email packages and Internet software too.



## What's the problem?

In a nutshell, some computers and programs store dates in the form dd/mm/yy instead of dd/mm/yyyy. For example, a computer would store a date as 5/1/98 instead of 5/1/1998. This means that at the end of 1999, the same programs will start storing dates such as 5/5/98 and 10/12/12. By dropping on these two extra digits, programmers could write programs which ran faster and took up less memory and storage space. This might seem only a slight inconvenience, until you remember that when working out calculations based on dates, the computer will get them wrong if it only deals with two digits per year. For example, I was born in 1967, so a computer can't work out my age by subtracting 1967 from 1998, which leaves 31.

Now let's now assume the computer program is working and how old I'll be in the year 2010: (2010 minus 1967 equals 43). Yes, frighteningly old. Now the bad news. Forget those extra two year digits, and you see that 10 minus 87 makes -87.

The computer thinks I'm -87, or that I won't be born for another fifty seven years.

It's not only ages of course: tax calculations, salary payments, mortgage calculations, they all depend on calculating the difference between two dates.

If they all get it wrong, there could be chaos in the years to come. Any system which stores only the last two digits will get things wrong: they'll assume 2010 came before 1900, and they will not be able to count the number of days that are in between.

lema. However, when the computer is switched off and rebooted, the problems begin. As the operating system starts up, it looks in the CMOS for the time and date. It discovers that it's now the year 1900. This is clearly not possible, and many operating systems default back to a date in the 1980s.

As the operating system is now telling all its applications that it's 1900, chaos can follow. Many, many PC applications require the current date in order to operate. Drawing systems, databases, appointment calendars – they will all be totally confused.

Programming tools and the utilities which look to file creation dates won't work properly. Some background tasks won't work properly. Some background tasks such as disk maintenance and automatic backuping could fail (potentially the PC's hard disks could be reformatted by an over eager utility).

That's not all though. Even if the BIOS in the PC's computer is smart enough to update the century byte to 20, and the operating system gets the correct date, there is no reason to assume all software is going to continue working as normal. Many application programs were written expecting the year to begin with '19', and simply don't allow it to be changed. Any program which



only maintain two digits to store the year instead of four, can fail. Even software from big-name companies has been found to fail. You might think that software updates will have fixed all the problems; think again, as a large number of companies are still using Windows 3.1 and applications which are years old and totally non-millennium safe.

If you happen to work with PCs, make sure your system administrator is planning for the Millennium, or you'll find that when you come back to work on Monday 3rd January 2000 you'll have a lot more work than you bargained for.

### Non-PC problems

All this would be bad enough, but as we all know the PC isn't the only computer system on the go. Companies who need to deal with millions of transactions often have large mainframe computers installed. The applica-

### So fix it!

Now that we know the problem is due to storing years as two digits instead of four, the temptation is to say "fix it - how hard can it be?" The answer is "very hard indeed".

Assuming you have the source code to a computer program, it's not as easy task to look through it all and change every single date calculation. There may be millions of lines of code which need checking. And then there is the matter of all the databases which already exist, and need changing to reflect the new year date.

If you don't have the source code, then the problem is a thousand times worse. It's simply not possible to search through a program and replace a few extra bytes in place. Programs depend on certain functions being stored at certain locations - if you bump everything up to make room for two extra digits, you turn everything which comes after the changes into a load of digital garbage - and that still makes no attempt to alter the logic required to deal with four digit dates.

Embedded applications are also almost unchangeable too. If your video recorder stores information about the date, you can bet that it's running a program which is stored in a ROM somewhere. How are you going to change the contents of the ROM? The simple answer is that you can't. Even hardware which stores their internal programs in EPROMs or EEPROMs or other forms of Flash Memory can't necessarily be changed easily and cheaply.



tions written on these computers were often written in a language called COBOL, which stands for Common Business Oriented Language. COBOL is quite a dinosaur now, but was considered very capable for developing applications until very recently. COBOL contains many instructions for dealing with huge databases, searching and dealing with different fields, everything which a large company needs.

The problem is that many COBOL programs were written with absolutely no thought that they would still be running in the year 2000. As such, many programmers made the mistake of storing only the last two digits of a year. You can bet that somewhere, there is a vast database which contains your name, address and details. And you can't forget that this database is now getting the year of your date of birth as '02' or '04'. What happens when columns have to 2000 are entered into the database?

There is no real way of knowing how

many computer systems are going to be affected by this kind of bug.

### Is the Amiga immune?

The Amiga doesn't have a separate BIOS and operating system, both are integrated into one and the same. It does however have a real time clock. At least, the 48600 and other 'big box' Amiga certainly do. The A1200, and the A600 and A800 models don't have a clock as standard; when you switch them on, the computer doesn't know the time and defaults to a 1980's date. Perhaps for this reason, there are few utilities on the Amiga which react directly to the time.

Of course, the A1200 and other systems can easily have a RTC module added. Usually, the RTC is built into a memory expansion or accelerator card. If you look at an expansion card and see a flat silver chip about the size of a penny, you're looking at the battery used to back up the CMOS memory which stores the current date and time.

Setting the time on the Amiga is a matter of using the Temp Professional program, when saved, the time will be correct to within a few seconds, and more importantly, stored correctly. The Amiga stores years properly and Workbench will always know of the correct time.

However, all is not well. AmigaDOS was developed separately from Workbench, and it uses a two digit year counter. You can see this action by looking at the output of the LIST command. Every time a file is created or written to, a value called the "datestamp" is updated to the current date. Sadly this information is stored using only the last two digits of the year. Some software will look at the datestamp, and it's these programs which will misbehave.

There are also cases of sloppy programming. Several programs will not accept any date entered which isn't in the range 1980 to 1999. Some programs will accept two-digit dates, but will assume that everything is set in the 1980s. This can cause problems with sorting and calculations.

If you are using an Amiga based system for accounting or storing important data, it is vital that you check now to see if your application is Year 2000 compatible. By using a new record with a date after 1999, if your application doesn't accept it, you'll have to try and find a solution to the problem - and that could mean contacting the software publisher for a fix or moving to another application altogether.

### It's bigger than the Amiga

Even if you've checked, fixed and replaced all the time-dependent software on your hard drive, that doesn't necessarily mean your Amiga will be 2000 bug-free for the rest of its life. At least, not if you're connected to the Internet. Once you hook up to another system, as you do so when using the Net, all your file transfers via that system are subject to any 2000 bugs that are still present in that system. Sending an E-mail sent via the Net can

DEC 31:1999 : 23:59 : 58

## More serious problems

There are some very serious problems that may be caused by the Millennium Bug. Almost everything we depend upon for everyday life in our modern cities relies on computers, all of which will have some kind of time/date dependent functions. Fixing the problem is a hairy business, an explained upside. There's no guarantee that every bug in every system will be located. In fact it would be a miracle if that were to happen, so it's likely that somewhere, sometime soon after the new year celebrations, something will go badly wrong on every computer system in existence (and in the world's first real-time global links linking weather, instead of news reports). It may well be 300 calls that are the first signs of the previously uncovered bugs. In a worst case scenario, here are the possibilities:

- \* Power station control software shuts down. Incorrect bills issued.
- \* Hospitals losing vital records and electronic equipment fails.
- \* Security cameras with wrong dates stop being admissible evidence.
- \* Air traffic control systems shut-down.
- \* Nuclear reactor systems. Whoops.
- \* Military hardware systems. Whoops again.
- \* Telephone network and exchanges become confused. Incorrect bills sent out.
- \* Satellite control systems fail.
- \* Broadcasting (TV, Radio) systems rely heavily on accurate time. They stop working.
- \* Commercial banking systems fail, leading to world chaos.



be launched around the world through countless systems, there's plenty of opportunity for things to go awfully up.

Despite all the fuss about it in the media, entire companies being set up purely to resolve the problem, reminder letters to business from the Prime Minister and so on, don't for a minute think that every system is going to make the deadline. One way or another that's bound to affect you and probably your family too.

## Coming soon: 2035 bug

As if worrying about the year 2000 wasn't enough, there's also concern about what is considered the next time hurdle: 2035. In a nutshell, you don't need to worry about this affecting your Amiga, or at least, let's face it, if you're still using the same system in 37 years time, you must be the rightest person in the whole world, in which case you deserve all the hassle it could bring. There's if you're still alive then of course. And even if you are alive and using the same computer in 2035, it's odds on that it won't affect you anyway, because this fear comes from the 2035 bug in *only* systems which use 32 bits to store time by counting every second from 1970 to the present day which will wrap around in about 30 years' time.

So that's all a lot of fuss about nothing as far as we're concerned. Oh, and by the way, the Millennium feature will start on the 1st January 2001. Happy New Year!  
John Kennedy

## What can I do?

- Test your system now to see if it is Year 2000 compatible.
- Contact the software publishers to see if there are any fixes available.
- Check out the alternatives for important information.
- Press Parliament to move to counting years in hexadecimal, thus delaying the millennium for another six years.

## Domestic appliances which might fail

Any system which starts years using only the last two digits is a good candidate for failure, come the year 2000. It's impossible to say what might happen - often nothing - but depending on how they are programmed, a system could freeze up totally or produce unpredictable results. Any electronic circuit with a clock might go wrong. Here's a list of ones you might not have considered.

- \* central heating systems
- \* video recorders/camcorders
- \* burglar alarms
- \* telephones
- \* hi-fi equipment
- \* car engine management systems
- \* fax machines



0101010101010

## Latest CD-ROMs



Double-Off Fall on Ice  
Developer: Double-Off  
Order: C0004 C0004



## Productivity



## Only CD-ROMs



## CD-ROM



## Applications



## Game Collections



## Adult CD-ROM





## Emulators

**EMULATORS ARE LIMITED**  
Only of limited interest  
C64, Spectrum, Amstrad  
486, 586, 286 and such

Order 020716 £10.00

**WORLD CLASSICS 96**  
Five from 2001 Classic  
Spectrum titles, at your  
choice. Includes: *Devilman*,  
*Revenge of Robots*, and  
*Frontiers of Space*.

Order 020717 £10.00

**CSA GAMES/ADDONS**  
Five complete CSA Games  
on 100 disks, including *WARRIOR*,  
all from the *Commander* series.  
All games, 100% complete.  
All in easy to use  
and the CD has complete  
help in every game.  
Order 020718 £20.00

## Amstrad Soft

**AMBIT SET ONE OR TWO**  
Amstrad Data One 2, Two, and  
Amstrad 4020 of both, disks  
include 1 x 1 x 1 instructions

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020719 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020720 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020721 £10.00

**AMBIT SET SIX**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020722 £10.00

## Public Domain

**EPIC DISCOUNTS**  
The Epic Collection (epicsoft)  
features and more titles of  
the very latest and only.  
All titles, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020723 £10.00

**EPIC COLLECTION VOL. 2**  
The Epic Collection (epicsoft)  
features and more titles of  
the very latest and only.  
All titles, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020724 £10.00

**EPIC COLLECTION VOL. 3**  
The Epic Collection (epicsoft)  
features and more titles of  
the very latest and only.  
All titles, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020725 £10.00

**EPIC COLLECTION VOL. 4**  
The Epic Collection (epicsoft)  
features and more titles of  
the very latest and only.  
All titles, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020726 £10.00

## Peripherals

**WIDE RANGE OF JOYSTICKS**  
BASIC JOYSTICKS 15 £10.00  
BASIC JOYSTICKS 15 £10.00

Order 020727 £10.00

**OFFICIAL AMBIT DISCOUNTS**  
High quality, 100% complete  
includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020728 £10.00

**IT TAKES AMBIT DISCOUNTS**  
High quality, 100% complete  
includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020729 £10.00

**AMBIT SET ONE OR TWO**  
Amstrad Data One 2, Two, and  
Amstrad 4020 of both, disks  
include 1 x 1 x 1 instructions

Order 020730 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020731 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020732 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020733 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020734 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020735 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020736 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020737 £10.00

## Software

**WIDE RANGE OF JOYSTICKS**  
BASIC JOYSTICKS 15 £10.00  
BASIC JOYSTICKS 15 £10.00

Order 020738 £10.00

**OFFICIAL AMBIT DISCOUNTS**  
High quality, 100% complete  
includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020739 £10.00

**IT TAKES AMBIT DISCOUNTS**  
High quality, 100% complete  
includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020740 £10.00

**AMBIT SET ONE OR TWO**  
Amstrad Data One 2, Two, and  
Amstrad 4020 of both, disks  
include 1 x 1 x 1 instructions

Order 020741 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020742 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020743 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020744 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020745 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020746 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020747 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020748 £10.00

## Software

**WIDE RANGE OF JOYSTICKS**  
BASIC JOYSTICKS 15 £10.00  
BASIC JOYSTICKS 15 £10.00

Order 020749 £10.00

**OFFICIAL AMBIT DISCOUNTS**  
High quality, 100% complete  
includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020750 £10.00

**IT TAKES AMBIT DISCOUNTS**  
High quality, 100% complete  
includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020751 £10.00

**AMBIT SET ONE OR TWO**  
Amstrad Data One 2, Two, and  
Amstrad 4020 of both, disks  
include 1 x 1 x 1 instructions

Order 020752 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020753 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020754 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020755 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020756 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020757 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020758 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020759 £10.00

## Software

**WIDE RANGE OF JOYSTICKS**  
BASIC JOYSTICKS 15 £10.00  
BASIC JOYSTICKS 15 £10.00

Order 020760 £10.00

**OFFICIAL AMBIT DISCOUNTS**  
High quality, 100% complete  
includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020761 £10.00

**IT TAKES AMBIT DISCOUNTS**  
High quality, 100% complete  
includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020762 £10.00

**AMBIT SET ONE OR TWO**  
Amstrad Data One 2, Two, and  
Amstrad 4020 of both, disks  
include 1 x 1 x 1 instructions

Order 020763 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020764 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020765 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020766 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020767 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020768 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020769 £10.00

**AMBIT SET FIVE**  
Amstrad 4020 and all series of their  
software, 100% complete.  
Includes the full version of  
*Demolition* 4020

Order 020770 £10.00

## EPIC Marketing

By supporting us  
you're supporting the Amiga

File - 888 House, Amstrad, Cherry Manor Trading Est.  
Barnet, Herts, EN4 3PL, UK

epicmarketing@aim.net  
www.vishva.com.co.uk

FreePhone 0500 131 486 or +44 0 1793 606066

Open Mon - Sat  
9.00am - 5.00pm

File - 888 House, Amstrad, Cherry Manor Trading Est.  
Barnet, Herts, EN4 3PL, UK

epicmarketing@aim.net  
www.vishva.com.co.uk

FreePhone 0500 131 486 or +44 0 1793 606066

Head Office (UK)  
888 House - (UK)  
Amstrad, Cherry Manor  
Trading Est. Barnet,  
Herts. EN4 3PL, UK

Australian Office  
888 House - (UK)  
Amstrad, Cherry Manor  
Trading Est. Barnet,  
Herts. EN4 3PL, UK

epicmarketing@aim.net  
www.vishva.com.co.uk

FreePhone 0500 131 486 or +44 0 1793 606066

Open Mon - Sat  
9.00am - 5.00pm

File - 888 House, Amstrad, Cherry Manor Trading Est.  
Barnet, Herts, EN4 3PL, UK

epicmarketing@aim.net  
www.vishva.com.co.uk

FreePhone 0500 131 486 or +44 0 1793 606066

Open Mon - Sat  
9.00am - 5.00pm

File - 888 House, Amstrad, Cherry Manor Trading Est.  
Barnet, Herts, EN4 3PL, UK

epicmarketing@aim.net  
www.vishva.com.co.uk

FreePhone 0500 131 486 or +44 0 1793 606066

Open Mon - Sat  
9.00am - 5.00pm

File - 888 House, Amstrad, Cherry Manor Trading Est.  
Barnet, Herts, EN4 3PL, UK

epicmarketing@aim.net  
www.vishva.com.co.uk

FreePhone 0500 131 486 or +44 0 1793 606066

Open Mon - Sat  
9.00am - 5.00pm

File - 888 House, Amstrad, Cherry Manor Trading Est.  
Barnet, Herts, EN4 3PL, UK

epicmarketing@aim.net  
www.vishva.com.co.uk

FreePhone 0500 131 486 or +44 0 1793 606066

# PowerPC Winners

Doing our bit to push the Amiga on to its PowerPC future, we set a challenge to all non-commercial coders to send us their latest creations, with the promise of five PowerUP cards donated by phase 5 for the winning entrants.

Part of the deal is that the winners take their original 680x0 programs and develop them for PowerPC. We had a good response with a very wide range of entries from which we've now picked the winners, each of which will soon be in receipt of one of those lovely PowerUP accelerators. So, on with the show...



**Winner**

**Title:** PlayHD

**Description:** Hard drive audio system

**Author:** Davy Wentzler



**Winner**

**Title:** AMR Voxal

**Description:** Voxal-based 3D race game

**Author:**

**Alastair**

**Robinson**



**Winner****Title:** LightWave particle animator**Description:** Particle plug-in for

LightWave

**Author:** Paul

Firth (Purple

Productions)

**Winner****Title:** Metal Web**Description:** Web page designer**Authors:** Pedro Luis Mieza & Josep

Rubineta

Ferrer

(Multitaskers)

**Winner****Title:** Cylonia**Description:** 3D Doom-type game**Authors:** T Till & S Hewitt**Honourable mention...**

The judging process was a long and complicated one, but finally we came up with five winners. The actual pieces of software selected were not simply the five best pieces of software written for the competition, they were pieces of software which fulfilled the aims of the competition most fully.

There were some very, very good entries which didn't make it, and the main reason was that they simply didn't persuade us that they were particularly deserving of conversion to PowerPC. A surprising number of

people forget about this aspect of the competition and sent in card games, Workbench clocks or test conversion utilities that were never really going to win.

An excellent board game failed because in the end it was a board game. A workbench replacement utility looked rather good but the version we were sent just gave us register now requests any time we tried anything. Finally, special mention has to go to the coder of a connect 3 Workbench game that took 10 Mb. His prize is a job with Microsoft.

# Screen Scene

**The Amiga games market defies all logic. We take a look and ask a rather unexpected question.**

## Reviews

- 38 Game Boys
- 48 Doom Level Round-Up
- 42 Theme Park
- 42 Simco the Swerve
- 42 Wing Nuts
- 48 Topi Central
- 48 Adventure Tips



Topi Central



Simco the Swerve

Some proudly announced at the beginning of this year that 200 new titles would appear on the PlayStation. Apparently there was an immediate split between people who proclaimed this as proof that the PlayStation was the greatest gaming platform ever and those with larger memories who recalled that a plot of games tends to be the hallmark of a platform's demise.

200 sounds like a lot of games, even for the platform of the moment. So how many are there planned for the Amiga in the next year? Without the canonical control of the PlayStation, it is a little hard to control, but a little research threw up 75 games which are intended to complete for your sixth during the current year. Another few spring to mind that I have promised not to mention and there are probably countless more I've forgotten or not heard of. For the sake of argument, let's say 100 games.

Now if you're counting 200 to be the magic number for the

Playstation, how

can 100 make sense for the

Amiga?

A significant

number of these

games will not

actually make it.

Games come out

late, projects turn

out to be impractical

or unprofitable.

Some of

these titles will end up coming out as freeware like *Glitz* (Sword)

or *Sharnawa*, or will be put back to 1999, in some cases possibly 2000. Despite all this the Amiga is likely to see a lot more

games this year than the Nintendo-64 or Sega Saturn.

The thing about the Amiga is that it is a lot more practical to

program than other platforms. There are a lot of talented Amiga

users, and the development costs, say for *Lowell Develop* for

Playstation and you'll need a couple of grand's worth of PC, and a

hell of a lot more spent on software tools. Most of the software

you need for the Amiga can be got for far lower prices, and you

can live without a full development system. With all that talent,

there are bound to be plenty of games releases, but which ones

there isn't the market to support them.

Sadness experiences with *Chill Factor* have highlighted

some of the problems. Despite getting a lot of good reviews,

*Chill Factor* has been very disappointing. Sadness: *Chill Factor* has

experienced some rather strong opinions on the matter on the

Internet, although we have been assured by the company that

they are not going to get out. Pre-orders for Playstation have

been promising, but if *Chill Factor* can't sell a big number, what

hope other titles? It may be that a certain amount of caution was

engendered by a certain rather odd review score it got, but I sus-

pect that most of the problem is down to two things. Firstly, peo-

ple prefer to buy from shops rather than mail order, which is not a

very useful article when the market is now nearly mail order



Topi Central



**Ange returns** — just as it returns the development team must decide if it will still be the same thing, or

only, and security it may be that Onlinescape had lost universal appeal than something like Foundation has. It may be that the Ange games maker is so small you can't afford to put it down into smaller segments, and an adventure game released the same time as the other more successful ones was perhaps always going to struggle.

So, do those more games in development than the market is able to sustain? Quite probably. There are likely to be some disappointed developers out there next year. Of course, those are always the odd games that don't do business, and even a poor seller can be a great addition to a CD but can't really be that the latest Ange games could be going into real trouble before a fan club started!

## Vulcan boldly go

Vulcan software have announced that they are moving into the PC and PlayStation games market. They will only back Ange development, but later such as Genetic Species, Hard Target, Predator 2000 and Mars and Mangle will still be going ahead. Vulcan explained their reasons for the move in a long statement, issued earlier in the year (and reproduced in the magazine) and of the month's CUCD which has caused considerable controversy.

Vulcan's Paul Cunningham explained that they no longer felt that the market for Ange games was sufficiently large to sustain them as a business, and was critical of the apparent slow progress since the Gateway 2000 buyout. Strongest criticism was aimed at software prices, Paul Cunningham pointing out that the practice is really more damaging to today's small market than it ever was at the height of the Ange's popularity.

## New high spec game

It's always fun to hear of games developers going to the Ange, and from new software, but one thing is certainly that, Armed at very



**Armed at very**

high-end machines, Ange looks something like a cross between Wars and Mars 90 on the Nintendo. In game graphics will be set in a full 3D environment and game characters will be "low polygon" models. A cut down version for high-end PCs and Ange will come first, but they clearly looking to the future, seems more interested in developing for the PPC and 3Dfx.

The images here are mock-ups, but are intended to give a good idea of what the game graphics would look like. If they can deliver what they promise, they will certainly be well to watch!

## Descent arrives!

Following in the footsteps of Doom, Parallax — swapped the source code for their excellent 3D Double-Dragon into a hybrid "Descent" into the public domain recently, and the first of the Parallax's Ange conversions are already here.

They've even have been released on the Amiga as far with at least two more planned. Further spin-offs, and an upcoming PPC version, promises very different versions of "Descent" to the main one.

Andrew Ross

## 1998 RELEASES

### Abduction

### Acers

### Adventure Shop

### Allan F1

### Alies

### Aphasia

### Art of Destruction

### Bermuda

### Beyond

### Bugs

### Cowman Species

### Claws of the Demon

### Counterstrike

### Daydream

### Dead Walk

### Desolate

### Diversia

### Eat the Whistle

### Escape from Atlantis

### Escape Towards the Unknown

### Evil's Doom

### Explorer 2000

### Fine 3D

### Forgotten Power

### Foundation

### Fratergallier

### Genetic Species

### Gilbert Coordinates

### Gleam 3: Directors cut

### Goblin Tanks

### Golem

### Great Nations

### H-Bomb

### H.A.R.D. Corps

### Hard Target

### Haunted

### Hotel Manager

### In the Shadow of time

### Jaktar

### Lambda

### Last Days of Paradise

### Magic Island

### Maim & Mangle

### Marbleous 2

### Martian Tales

### Megablind

### Mobile Warfare

### New Horizons

### Nothingness

### Odyssey

### Orion Wars

### Phoenix

### Pinball Brain Damage

### Powder

### Pulsator

### Puzzle Heroes

### Quake

### Quiet Please: Terror

### Radiation

### Rally World

### Reins of the Forgotten World

### Sixth Sense Investigations

### Sixth Sense Investigations

### Skat

### Skimmers

### Starfighter

### Testament 2

### Tiger's Bone

### Total Combustion

### Total Destruction 3D

### Trauma Zero

### Virtual Karting 2

### Westerados

### Wheels on Fire

### Wingnuts

# Doom Level Round-up

Continuing from last month's Amiga Doom explosion we take a look at some of the best 3rd party levels out there.

**D**oom blasted its way into our Amigas last month, one of our cover CD and special three disk issue. Once you've played through the shareware level you might think that's that, but you'll be wrong! On last month's CD you'll find loads of extra Doom levels, known as WADs, which have been created by PC Doom fans. You can play these on your preferred version of Amiga Doom, but first you'll need to buy an original copy of the PC game. This is available from a few advertisers in this magazine including Ward Science and Epic Marketing, and you should also be able to find it at your local high street games retailer.

You can get Doom, Doom II (which adds new levels and a double-barrel combat shotgun) or Ultimate Doom with a special fourth level added on top of the original.

We'll take a quick look at the shareware, levels, and why of these add-on Doom levels, and sample the highlights from the CD and the world at large.

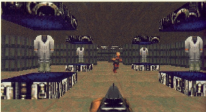
## Waddle over

Throughout our examples, we'll assume you're using AdDoom, but the general advice is the same for any version you might be using.

First off, to take advantage of third-party WADs, you absolutely have to have a data file from a registered commercial version of Doom. The shareware WAD we gave you won't cut it. Once you have that installed in the directory of your favorite Amiga Doom program, you can launch any new WAD by typing `adDoom -file sparc2.wad` and name of the size (wad).

At the command prompt, if all goes well, the game will launch but when you start up, you'll be in a totally different maze. Alternatively, check this month's CD for some new Doom tools including a Doom GUI front-end to make this process a whole lot easier.

Some add-on WADs are very simple affairs. The most basic usually replace the first level of the first mission - after that, the game reverts to the original Doom maps. Others are complete multi-level missions, have different graphics, sound effects, music, and weaponry. Most WADs come with at least one text file from the author telling you about what he's done - read them carefully because they not only describe what the WAD might be best suited



**A. Having several different people create levels to get looking after you've got as numerous supply of new levels.**

for some are intended for single player action, others are really only good for death-matches, but they also tell you where the new levels are located. Some authors stick their new levels in odd places and it won't be immediately obvious how to reach them unless you read the file. For example, let's say a WAD author replaced mission 1, level 3 of Doom with his maze. To reach it in a hurry, use the level skip cheat (`TOGGLE XY` where X is the mission and Y is the level), in this case `TOGGLE 13`.

## Total conversions

Some WAD authors go one step beyond creating a new maze or replacing a '70s rock tune in the game. They replace everything, from the weapon graphics to the wall tiles to the monsters. These are called "total conversions", and some of them were even included on last month's CD. The problem is that at present, we can't take advantage of these on the Amiga (once again, since the CD for Doom updates as time may have elapsed) or some total conversion compatible versions at the last minute.

## Eat these WADs

Third party WADs vary wildly in quality, from pedestrian and unimpressive to truly impressive. Aside from some basic design issues (is the maze interesting, are there enough monsters and enough weapons to take them out with without these being too much of edited the #1 cause of a bad WAD is poor "spacing" of walls. Some designers are sloppy and what should be gently curving

walls are not placed together properly at their corners, so that if you're running while bumping against a wall you get caught on the edge. You do a lot of this movement when searching for secret doors or just running away very fast, and it gets quite irritating in either case.

## Last words

Do yourself a favor and keep up with the latest Doom releases. Little niggling bugs are being fixed every time you turn around, and more and more features are being added - better RTG and processor optimizations, more audio options, and so forth.

Do yourself another favor, and if you've got the CPU time to spare, install the music options for the Doms that support it (currently, AdDoom and Doom AMAD). The music really adds a sense of atmosphere to the games that you miss if all you hear is the gunfire.

And finally - if any concerned parents or shocked friends notice, some of the raunchy text messages in these versions of Doom were not put there by the game doing the Amiga ports, and I doubt they were put there on purpose by it - somebody left something in that they weren't supposed to after the internal versions were finished. I'll sugar-

Look out for commercial compilations of Doom WADs and total conversions. We'll be reviewing some in the very near future. If you can't wait till then, give Ward Science a bell and ask them about their joint Doom/Duke level CD. ■

Jason Clement

## Some of the best WADs

Here's a quick look at the more notable WADs of last month's **CUCM**. The **filenames of the WADs themselves are given in brackets to help you locate them.**

### ■ The Simple (simple.wad)



Typical gun-tossing sort of level. Better suited for deathmatch play, although there are so many ladders in either case it's overdone. A good challenge, though, if you want to try to kill everything with just the plasma gun ammo provided. Can be interesting if you make it out of the starting room. Good for a laugh.

### ■ Crossing Arcturus (arcturus.wad)

A very well designed single level WAD. Confusing because the author chooses to place it at mission 1 level 3 but he did so for the music associated with that level in the original game. The opening, giving you a shotgun with which to face a demon, is very exciting and leads in to what is overall a very well thought out level. The



platforms are pretty evenly distributed and the author didn't go as crazy with non-sticks as some have. (Even on the toughest difficulty, a level should at least allow you to win with a minimum of cheat codes.) The use of doom is quite clever and the music seems to have been designed rather than just bunged together at short notice. Arcturus is well worth the trip.

### ■ Doom Forest (forest32/forest.wad)

One of the newer ideas I've seen. It's pretty standard Doom fare but with some nice music tracks (including the painfully obvious 'Another One Bites the Dust') and takes a lot of the action outdoors - not to some hellish red plain but a fairly normal looking outdoors, except that much of the

floor looks like green tentacles. The maps are reasonably designed although I tend to like a little less gratuitous use of the 'starfield wall' texture.

The last level makes great use of imp-traps, putting them atop a VERY tall ledge and that and the weird stereogram-like walls may give you a touch of vertigo. It's also a bit of a letdown - since it's a small WAD they can't give you a big message at the end of your 64level mission, but I hoped for more of a sense of accomplishment. It's



actually fairly easy to escape the last level, and I was hoping for a bit more. Still a strong WAD overall and worth a look. The replacement sky texture alone makes it worthy.

### ■ What's for Dinner? (dinner/dinner.wad)

This is probably my favorite WAD of all time. I would honestly not have believed if I'd paid money for it. The author has a very good attitude about game design - it shouldn't be about tedious traps and tons of impossible situations which require you to cheat all the time. Not that I'm opposed to turning on god mode, giving myself all the weapons and just shooting rockets at everything then moving but it gets boring after 5 minutes. What's for Dinner is something you can come back to again and again.

There's a very nasty claustrophobic feel - racing through tight barrels, up and down cramped staircases, wondering who's going to be at the other end. And the animal sound effects make it exciting rather than 'Oh, if it's a nasty huge spider thing I'll just make it and be on my way' sort of affair. There's a healthy use of barrels in some very clever Indiana Jones-esque ways which I of course



approve of heartily.

What's for Dinner runs a full nine levels. Only in the final few does the author go really crazy and put you in nearly (or completely) impossible situations, but on the 'later hand' he does recommend not playing in the higher difficulty levels due to the design of the game. It will almost invite yourself over for some dinner.

### ■ 'Episode 3 Best' (ep3best.wad)

A disjointed collection of 8 wads deemed by the compiler to be the best he has. There's something for everyone in here - a level with wild teleporter dancing, a level that requires patience and precision maze running, a level with a healthy stock of barrels...you get the idea. A pretty good starter pack if you're not sure what you like. A good compilation. Worth checking out.

### ■ Honorable Mention: Barrels (barrel.wad, on this month's CUCM)

For barrel-fu barrel-shooting folks like me. Played on Ultra-Violence too. God forbid, Nightm8r made it actually pretty challenging. The 'plot' - there are three



▲ Do what happens when you leave the entry room of your gun?



rooms filled with bad guys, and with barrels. The first room has foot soldiers, the second imps, and the third cacodemons (eye creatures). My strategy is to ignore the soldiers to start, run into the doorway of the second room, and try to blow up enough barrels to start a chain reaction to take out a bunch of imps. Then go back, blow up the soldiers and pick off the remaining soldiers and imps. There probably won't be many barrels left to take out the cacodemons, but once all the other distractions are gone they're easy to take out - they move slowly.

# Simon the Sorcerer

■ Price: £14.99 ■ Publisher: Adventuresoft ■ Distributor: Epic © 0500 131486

An old classic returns, with a familiar voice!



For Adventuresoft's released *Simon the Sorcerer* back in 1993, they hoped to beat, or at least compete with Monkey Island 1 and 2. It never got the success of the Lucasfilm adventures, but it deserves a place in the Adventure Hall-of-Fame\*, if you missed it back then, now is your chance to catch up.

*Simon the Sorcerer* has great hand drawn graphics, skinned in and then touched up and coloured resulting in clearer and crisper images than in the Lucasfilm games. It also has some stunning character animations. Simon has 80 frames alone, and additional action-specific animations make the character come to life. In one scene, a Swamping tree to get you to eat some swamp mud. (For this there are 1000+ animation frames!)

## The plot

The story is of a young lad, who since his



14th birthday has been obsessed with magic books. One day, a small puppy arrives on his doorstep with a leather bound book. Reading it causes Simon to accidentally open a portal to another world and he goes through it. The rest you have to figure out yourself. The storyline is humorous, and the puzzles are stacked, stretched, interwoven and then done.

▲ I really enjoyed and enjoyed playing this game. It was a real treat.

led back to make them as complex as possible, while at the same time logical.

This game also has some very funny conversations that don't require any input from you, you can just stand back and watch people talking. Sound on the CD release is much improved. In a complete work map supplied to non other than Chris Banks, from 'The British Empire', and CJ's own Terry Diller. Simon also has a tune looping into itself. When you play the game you might wonder if 'Cecile' has played it before you – the resemblance to the album is like 'See you when you get there' is striking.

All in all, *Simon the Sorcerer* is a game with humour, great graphics, and complex puzzles, that belongs on top with the best. Good of Epic to arrange a re-release! ■

By Matthew

Length 85%	Sound 85%	Usability 85%	Playability 85%
■ Background music 1.5	■ Number of files 15.00	■ Size 200	■ Best and available 100%
90			

# Theme Park

■ Price: £14.99 ■ Publisher: Bullfrog ■ Guildhall Leisure © 01302 890 000

Guildhall's latest re-release sees the welcome return of a Bullfrog Classic.

**R**ed Dwarf has always been a great Sci-Fi theme. The first series is a classic from the good old days. Then, some special effects team comes along with their 'starky' 'vase' (ie. what Holly would regard as, premeditated) technology. They show in hundreds of computer-generated sequences to bring it up to date. But does it work? Is it still the same?

So is the feeling with this re-release of Theme Park (Bullfrog, originally with us three and a half years ago). This time, there are separate ECS and VGA versions, as well as some nice animated sequences bolted on for good measure. Sure, it's more appealing than it used to be, but let's not start judging a book by its cover. The game itself is still Theme Park. It's still a classic.

You can still draw smiley faces in the grass with sections of park if you like, but it's not going to attract the crowds. You soon feel that this game means business. Running your own Theme Park is more than just building lots of exciting rides and making sure the little galls picked up. It sounds straightforward, but all your little visitors have been blessed with the uncanny ability

to spot the lack of amenities, grumble about the speeds of the bouncy castles or moan at their perpetual hunger 'til the cows come home. Which never happens, by the way.

The theme of Theme Park is, addition, and if the playing experience were to be likened to anything, it would have to be a rollercoaster. After paying your money and strapping yourself in, the rollercoaster steadily makes its way up a learning curve just steep enough to get your veins pumped with adrenalin. There's no going back.

Once you've got the hang of playing from paths, foot stalls, rides and queues in strategic places and suitable quantities, the rollercoaster slows down and levels out. Now's the time to make sure you're strapped in and able to feel your way to the roller at a moment's notice. The rollercoaster begins to dip, and seconds later you feel like you've been pulled in Old Spice. Plus, that's not the sixth member!

If you're after a riveting couple of months game playing, order yourself a copy of Theme Park. The 'Wax-taster' may have been hushed in little with age, but its addictive quality will never be denied. ■

Mark Davies



▲ I enjoyed playing this game. It was a real treat.

■ I really enjoyed and enjoyed playing this game. It was a real treat.



Length 85%	Sound 85%	Usability 85%	Playability 85%
■ Background music 1.5	■ Number of files 15.00	■ Size 200	■ Best and available 100%
82			







# CUCD 20 Rear Inlay

Here's your "last-out and first" (LAF) CD rear inlay and which were missing from the CD that came with last month's magazine.

You'll have noticed last month's CUCD came without its usual right and rear inlay card. This was approved at the last minute during the production of the CD. Software logs in the corner of software were understandably not prepared to put their name and official seal of approval to the small, last-minute insertions on the CD. For all they knew, having not seen these Amiga Cores themselves, they could have been approving substandard product or for allowing their logo to appear on the CD packaging (which therefore is not the way to run the magazine, minus the logo of course, so that you can plug the gap in your newly filled collection of CUCDs). Follow the code and last instructions, carefully plug up the black backing paper in the CD case and insert the inlay then reassemble.

CU Amiga Magazine's Super CD-ROM 20



Back cover: Copyright © 1990 edition of CU Amiga Magazine. © 1990 Fraser & Neave. This CD-ROM is solely for use with the Amiga 1000 issue of CU Amiga Magazine. It may not be copied or reproduced in any form without the express written permission of the publisher. Hardware and design are registered trademarks of Fraser & Neave. All rights reserved. This CD-ROM is the property of Fraser & Neave. For more information, please contact the publisher. In this case, about the content of an advertisement or the date of any forthcoming magazine, or for a subscription, please contact the publisher. Copyright © 1990 Fraser & Neave. All rights reserved. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. Fraser & Neave is not responsible for any damage to the CD-ROM or the magazine.

CU

CU

CU

## Don't Miss An Issue!

Fill in the form below and hand it to your newsagent, taking care to specify whether you require the CD or floppy disk edition.



"Don't you just hate it when you can't get your hands on the latest issue of CU Amiga? Make sure you don't miss a single issue of the world's best Amiga magazine by placing a regular order for CU Amiga with your local newsagent".

Dear News Agent, please order and reserve me the next issue of CU Amiga Magazine.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I require the following edition: (please tick)

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Floppy Disk Edition ☐ CD ROM Edition

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**AMIGA**

# See You Online!

**M**ake CU Online your first stop on the World Wide Web. Now with more frequent and major updates, CU Amiga's web site is just the place to find out what's new and what's hot on the Amiga scene before it appears in print. You can catch up on the very latest breaking news stories, take part in surveys and opinion polls, join the lively CU Amiga mailing list, read up on past, current and forthcoming issues of the mag, contact the team, get your teeth into our on-line features and much more. Created with and specially optimised for Amigas, you'll find it one of the fastest and most accessible sites on the Web, with loads of useful links to other major Amiga sites. Make CU Online your browser's default URL.

## • Latest breaking news stories

### • Interactive surveys and polls

### • Join the CU Amiga mailing list

### • Contact the team

### • Order subscriptions and back issues

### • Exclusive online features

### • Fast Amiga-friendly design

### • Links to quality Amiga sites



# www.cu-amiga.co.uk

# Wingnuts

■ Price: £14.99 ■ Supplier: Slankworks ☎ 01846 675453 ■ [www.makin1.demon.co.uk/slankworks](http://www.makin1.demon.co.uk/slankworks)

What happens when wacky cartoon characters are given even wackier flying machines and duel to the death on an alien world? *Wingnuts* answers just that question.

**S**ometimes it takes a newcomer to shake out the doldrums. It seems like everybody these days is obsessed with getting a real-time strategy game to market – they used to be obsessed with getting a 3D shooter out, but the ideas of *Doom* and *Quake* changed all that. Along comes the Slankworks newcomer to the Amiga game market, to try to shake things up with *Wingnuts*, an action-flight sim with tongue planted so firmly in cheek it's causing laughter.

## Wings, take flight

*Wingnuts* puts you in the cockpit of one of six wacky flying machines, from a UFO to a boomer rocketship to a flying cat. Behind the controls, you can take on the persona of six different pilots, each a cartoon stereotype.

The plot, as it were, is that *Wingnuts* is the most popular contact sport in the galaxy and you're in a small arena on a small planet dedicated to the thing. When you step in to the contraption of your choice, you face off against five other pilots, up to three of which can be human (I shall linking two Amigas together – otherwise you can play against one other person).

Once you've made your pick you're taken over to the arena, where each player gets a half-screen view from just behind the pilot, which means you see the cockpit and pilot as well as half the window. There are a wide variety of weapons to choose: guns, rockets, missiles, 'beamer' weapons, and defences.

## Crash and Burn

*Wingnuts* looks like a great game up until you actually get to the flying around and fighting part. The 3D flight engine isn't very detailed even when set to 'very high' detail mode, but this is no big deal as it makes the game well suited even for slower machines, and given the game's dogfight nature they weren't going for professional flight sim realism. But so many controls were out that the game is nearly impossible to play.



It's out of sight... or isn't it, anyway.



For starters, there is no artificial horizon or altimeter, and gauging distance from the ground is nearly impossible unless you switch to the external view, which involves a keypress and is hardly convenient. The lack of a horizon means that you are not only never quite sure how high you are off the ground but whether or not you're continuing to climb. You do have a radar, but I am all but convinced that it bears no actual relationship to the action around you. The manual does a very poor job of explaining it and hours of flight time got me no nearer to understanding its mechanics, or how to locate an enemy. My 'locate' I mean get one in my sights – you can tell they're there because they shoot at you constantly, but I'm damned if I know where they are.

I tried to look past these glaring flaws and get on with playing the game. Battling a missile lock on an enemy contraption is not impossible, but is extremely difficult. On the other hand, the bad guys seem to be able to get locks on you whenever they feel like it, and you wind up depleting your store of missile decays very early in a match. Managing speed is easy enough to manage with the keyboard, but using the function keys to cycle through weapons fast enough gets very hairy. Support for CD32 joysticks, or even two joystick buttons, would have been extremely welcome.

In combat gets to be too much for you, you can peek heaven on the landing strip and get repairs. Sounds great, doesn't it? Except that there's no actual way to tell where the landing strip is at any given time – there's no map! You can enable an autopilot mode to land you, and this may or may not take you to the landing strip. Sometimes it just sets you down on the ground.

The manual mentions that the average lifespan for novice *Wingnuts* is 40 seconds.

This is funny, until you realise that it's absolutely true. The enemy buzzes around you and mercilessly punishes you time and time again. It's not really possible to play in a true 'horror' mode where your pilot is an ace – you can build up the meddows starting stats of the 6 pilots but that doesn't do you much good if you can't win a single dogfight.

I found the most effective combat strategy was to buy the 'Blunderbuss', a machine gun you can fire from the ground, land and then just shoot away at guys from there. Unfortunately, I also found that I couldn't get back from the Blunderbuss sight to the cockpit. It's things like this that give *Wingnuts* that 'not played by those who weren't intimately involved in development' feeling.

## The Shame of it

The real shame is that I wanted to like *Wingnuts*. There's a lot to like. The manual, while produced on a very basic budget, is whimsically funny without being annoying.

The pilots hold up little signs, get ill, and panic and are quite charming in their way while the damage mounts around them. And if *Wingnuts* got a few weeks of external playtesting and a retail by the programmer, it could be a very fun game. It's just not playable as it stands. ■

Jason Crompton

## Wingnuts

■ Workbench version... 1.0	Version	1.0
■ Number available... 1	Players	1-6
■ Release... 1990	Genre	Action
■ How well available... Yes	Available	Yes

### VERDICT

A great concept, with good graphics, ruined by poor controls.

**67%**

4 If I didn't have better, I'd think that was 'horror' mode where your pilot is an ace – you can build up the meddows starting stats of the 6 pilots but that doesn't do you much good if you can't win a single dogfight.

# Tips Central



The elusive Mark Forbes re-appears after a short break with some more tips alongside our regular Adventure Guru Sjur Mathisen.

## Strangers

Thanks again to the lovely Lisa

Tanaka for these codes. Sorry about skipping you for them Lisa, if possible I'll make it up to you somehow dear.

- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 2- Dead | 5- Puke |
| 3- Fack | 6- Fami |
| 4- Poxy | 7- Mago |



## You need help

If you would like some help on any game – or you have some tips that you'd like to share with your fellow readers – then please write to us at Tips Central at the following address, remembering to mark your envelope *Adventure or Arcade accordingly*.

Tips Central,  
CU Amiga Magazine,  
27-29 Millthorpe,  
Leeds of Sops,  
London E18 8TJ

## Wing Commander

I hope that many of you have this great game in your collection – better still it's the hard to find CD32 and CD32 limited versions.

From C21 change the directory CDD to the directory where Wing Commander is installed, or DFE if playing from floppy. Now type 'Wing NO Digitaliser' and press return. Make sure you make a copy of your original disks before attempting this cheat and type it exactly as it is shown. Now during play hold down shift and press C5 to destroy any targeted target.

**S - 5-52 - Pick the Systems where you want to start from.**

**M - 0-2 - Pick the mission you start at.**  
**S - You are immortal!!**

Number of options:

- |               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1 - Enyo      | 8 - Post Hedland  |
| 2 - McAdiffe  | 9 - Baranosa      |
| 3 - Gateway   | 10 - Rousav       |
| 4 - Glinda    | 11 - Muddles Bear |
| 5 - Brimstone | 12 - Molep        |
| 6 - Chergale  | 13 Rella Kishoon  |

## T2 - The Arcade Game

Cheat Mode: Enter 'TMT' at your initials in the high score table.

Now during play pause the game and press F10 to skip the levels.

## Golden Oldie Tip

### F.A.18 Interceptor

Select option 2 from the title screen: 'True Flight, No Enemy Combatant!'. Now, instead of entering 1-8, press 0.

The screen will go into a spiral and scroll way south to 04 by 117 degrees, placing your aeroplane somewhere without a runway.

This happens to be in the middle of the Edwards Air Force Base, where the F.A.18 was first tested. To take off you have to use the afterburners.

117 degrees is the furthest south you will be able to fly, but you are able to fly in other directions.

Exit down U.S. 101, turn right at Highway 52, pull up to the (A) Headquarters and blow it away!

In mission 8, once you've fired all your missiles, you can land on the Shadow Sub (it's still offset that is!) and it will re-fuel and re-arm you.

For later missions select 'True Flight', then press 6, 7, 8, or 9 to enter a mission.

## Adventure Helpline



Beneath a steel sky

**Beneath a steel sky**

We noticed in your January '96 edition that you have some tips for the game, but my only problem is I've done everything right up to getting Joey to blow the fuse box and I know I don't need the WD40 or the key but how do I knock out a crowbar with the olive-omega? Also where do you get the protective coating from?

Marks Donley

I've looked at what I said in the January issue, and after replaying the game just for you, I have to admit my tip was a bit "misconstrued".

I can't admit to making an error, so I'll have present my defence. You still don't need the WD40 or the key, but the olive-omega part needs to be sorted out. I have quoted myself but what I said was "I'd use the olive-omega to knock out a crowbar." The "a" is very important here, because there are more than one crowbars in Beneath a Steel Sky, and by using the "a" I haven't specified which one.

Now for what you have to do right before and after taking care of the fuse box: first send Joey into the storage room. When he comes back, let him handle the fuses. Now you should go into the storage room and lift the gangway. Pick up the pulley from under it. Go out and a nice man will take your gloves and sandwich. Exit the factory, and make Joey wield the olive-omega on the wall.

Next step would be the power room, and this is where I'll stop trying to be evil. Just one more thing then: The radiation suit you need when entering the reactor (after doing loads of other stuff first) can be found in a locker

somewhere in the factory.

**Monkey Island**

Please help me, I've been stuck for ages. I've reached Monkey Island and have picked up the cane, escaped from the cannibals and got some bananas, but I don't know what to do now to progress.

Deeven Beach, Swindon

First of all, thank you for providing this month's question concerning Monkey Island. You might have done some of the stuff below, but I have a page to fill.

What you might try is going to the fort on the western side of the island. While there push the cannon, and pick up the Lamentail. Heavy isn't it? Get the gunpowder, the rope, and the apples. Chat a bit with Herman T. The next step on this tour of the island is the river boat. Find some flint and climb up the bushes. "Wow!" A catapult for you to push and pull. Go to the top of the hill and use the spyglass. If you don't see the banana tree on the beach, go

down and push or pull the catapult. Do this until you can see the tree. Then push the rock to activate the catapult, and a message will be shown if you hit the tree. If not, just try another rock. Now you should have plenty of bananas.



Monkey Island

Another nice place to go to is the pond at the end of the city river. There you'll bump into a nice young man, but don't bother chatting with him. Just figure out a way to get the coat of rope he's holding. At the river fork there is a stern. You have gunpowder, and when you hit the cannonball with the flint you have a spark. Need I say more? If this doesn't help, I guess you're never getting off the island.

**Myat**

I've been playing Myat for a few days now and have gone to all the islands but have a slight problem. When I go into the fireplace, the guy tells me to get a page. I don't know where this page is. I've tried the blue and red pages but he doesn't want them.

Al Campbell, Tyne & Wear

In the library room, the blue page and wait for psycho boy to be freed. Now Acheron will speak of another page and that the green book is a trap. To get the last page, pattern

156 from the odd book of patterns must be entered in the fireplace. Before getting this page, go back and get the blue page left behind.

Retrace the path and actions through the log cabin, the large tree, and all the valve settings to get back up to the top level of Channelwood. Exiting the elevator, swing left and go to the hut at the opposite end from Acheron's. The page can be found in the dark drawer under the window with the sign of the voodooist.

In the right drawer under the bed is the other half of the page found earlier giving instructions for access to the hidden vault on Myat Island. Think you can come up with a couple of things to do there now?

I'd also like to mention that there are some rumours going around saying Clockwork are plotting to ruin us as well. Haven't been called Myat 2. Word has it, the release will take place in March or May. Let's hope that this is true. ■

Gyar Martinian  
gymar@online.no  
[mailto:Uthmanee.and.said@stgnet.no](mailto:mailto:Uthmanee.and.said@stgnet.no)



Monkey Island 2

It's software city this month as Tech Scene takes a long hard look at a video effects system, the latest Siamese, a font designer, ST Fax Pro and all the regular CD and PD round-ups.

## NEW DVD

Video effects software from Italian developer Cinematix. Go look, there it is, effects.

## NEW SHARED HD CD

Mac Software reviews the legendary Macintosh 6+ spins system from HD.

## NEW BOOT DISK/CD

For WTP users, Larry Rickard, checks out a really little boot disk and package.

## NEW ST FAX PRO

Send your friend an address for items in business needs? Test Software gives ST Fax Pro a try.

## NEW CD-ROM DVD

James CD, 20,000 Mac Graphics, Space Objects '98, Audio. Here there for unique things.

## NEW GAMES CD

Jump! James Gamble gets all artists, with this re-release of the old master game package.

## NEW PD CD/CD

There's just no stopping Steve for video for his get his PD games from us.

## NEW PD SHARED

Steve Fox with more offerings from the universe world of Public Domain Utilities.

## NEW FONT SELLERS

An artist Andrew Kern does the job of a font and creates his site for a bit.

# X-DVE 3.01

■ Supplier: Haaga & Partner ☎ +49 6007 93 00 50

■ Price: DM289 ■ <http://www.haaga-partner.com>

One for video editors and animators alike, here's the new X-DVE.



Early on and then we in the Amiga community get a gold rush of quality software from some country or other where we least expect it. As you might have noticed in recent CD Amiga games coverage, Italy has been a hotbed of Amiga activity lately, and Casox proves that it's not all fun and games going on in that sunny Mediterranean.

X-DVE is Casox's flagship product, in effect an attempt to recreate expensive digital video hardware with a humble Amiga and a few interlaced disks of software. A



▲ You might think this looks underpowered, and you'd be right, because it's just the quick preview screen.



forts or so ago, before the Amiga came along and cleaned house, most anything you wanted to do in a video studio required special expensive dedicated machines. Amiga products like the Video Transfer and the Dvee changed all that, and X-DVE is bringing try-to-do cleanup work, displacing expensive effects machines, or providing a lower budget option for those of us who can't afford high-end editing stations.

If you've been familiarizing yourself with Scala lately, X-DVE will ring a few bells. And on its surface, you could use X-DVE as a Scala substitute, its generate text, apply it to backgrounds, and move it around in sequences. You could, but you'd be missing out on the rest of the good stuff.

X-DVE's strength is in its vast array of impressive 2D and 3D effects, many of which can be employed in limitless permutations. The render speed of these complex

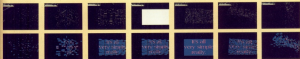
effects is astonishing as well, far better than I've seen comparable products, like the Dvee's Minishop software.

## Interface

X-DVE's interface is somewhat reminiscent of Scala as well, with lots of objects (text, brushes, starfields, etc.) arranged in a table. The table determines an object's priority over the others. Each type of object has its own characteristics: antialiasing, embossing, shadowing, color, and so forth. Applying text characteristics is a bit less straightforward than in Scala, but the manual's tutorial on text handling soon makes it clear what is required to get good-looking text output.

Each object also gets its own pair of effects and its own timeline, when it should enter the animation, how long it should take to reach its "pose" point (where you want your sliding text to land), for example, and





Yes, X-DVE offers a great range of effects (which in some effects looks like a sunset) and these files in use with another built-in script. The user interface controls types of images. The preview window (the only thing the real thing has the "viewer" will come together before you make.

how long it should take to leave the animation. Of course, you can choose to simply "go" set up to having it take no time to enter, or keep it moving constantly by choosing not to pause it.

The effects are the rules or break for X-DVE. If we just wanted a program to slide text over a pretty background we could have stuck with Scale. X-DVE goes the extra mile, however. The array is impressive, and getting better with each new update of the program. Ranging from click-and-go simplicity to the sort of complexity you should expect from an animation package, X-DVE has it all. There are simple Scale-esque slides (slide left, slide right, etc.), 3D effects which allow you to fly and spin an object into place, "wind" effects that "blow" an object in a variety of patterns, and so on. The best part of the effect engine is the real-time 3D wireframe preview which allows you to see how your animation is taking shape before committing to a huge render.

For creating quick and easy titles or marquee in a hurry that still look great, X-DVE is a natural choice. The starfield generator is obviously meant for this very thing. If nothing else, you can keep your titles from looking like every other Scale title in the world.

## Documentation

The documentation of X-DVE leaves a little to be desired. As of this writing, it is spread out across two 68-page manuals, with another addendum to be included by the time you read this. The first addendum targets supercoders: information in the original manual, and gives the amount of changes since the addendum (V2.5L, the next manual will likely be more of the same). The translation from Italian is also somewhat uneven, although seems to be improving with time. I was stymied as to what to do with X-DVE after reading the manuals, but found that sitting down with the tutorials and working through them cleared up all the mystery in about 10 minutes.

Once you figure out what X-DVE is doing, navigating its menus is quite simple and straightforward. Of some small annoyance is the occasional button which has been renamed, moved, or repositioned in an update, but the new manual should take care of some of these problems. What is notably lacking is " idiot-proofing." X-DVE is not very

good at letting you know when you've made a silly mistake. For example if you try to do a preview without having assigned any start or end frames, X-DVE just stares back silently at you, rather than popping up a requester saying something helpful like "You have not defined a start and end frame." This is a lack of polish more than anything else, but can still cause a lot of anxiety on the early portions of the learning curve.

I mentioned before that X-DVE was fast, and I want to emphasize that X-DVE is, in fact, surprisingly fast when compared to similar effects packages. When working with simple slide and word effects, it blazes through hundreds of frames in remarkable time on an unremarkable drive (I used an IDE drive for most of the tests). Even 3D and rotation effects, which require a great deal more processing power, chug out at an impressive rate. X-DVE's libraries are optimized for each level of CPU including the 680, which helps a great deal.

X-DVE allows you to output direct to video (render to memory and play it), good for both spots, render to PIF frames, or to the custom XFA animation format (ClassX) developed. You can also import frames—for example, integrating a video clip you've been working on in ImageFX to apply X-DVE effects. X-DVE can handle any image format available through your datadesk through OS 3, but I found that using anything but PIF frames bogged down performance.

## Compatibility

X-DVE will work with the EBCDOS chipsets, but for best speed, not to mention more colors, VGA is recommended. You can do a great deal of the work in X-DVE on a CyberSight® screen, although you will still need a standard Amiga display to check your work and results unless you load the resulting frames into another program or play the XFA animation file. I found using CGA unnecessary and cumbersome, but it's a nice option to have, and necessary for Classic use.

Obviously X-DVE is targeted at people interested in video, although it could easily be applied for animations that never make it onto tape. If you've imported thousands upon thousands in a video suite already, X-DVE might be duplicating what you already have. On the other hand, if you're building up slowly, X-DVE could make ahead your capabilities

for a relatively small investment.

If you've exhausted the possibilities of the previously cover-mounted Amiga, it's well worth a go. X-DVE can do a lot. Perhaps the most lasting impression it's had on me is a reminder that the Amiga's hardware is still very useful and pretty damn cool. Given the amount of documentation and user interface that I still am less than enamored with, I was tempted to withhold the Superstar award, but then I got down and drew polygons around the screen with the generator of axes, and thought, better of it. X-DVE is a top-tier program that is well supported, and I expect that these difficulties will get ironed out. ■

Jason Compton



## X-DVE 3.01 Developer's Class

**System Requirements:** SuperAmiga, Amiga 4, 486 class, recommended 68030, 16MB+ RAM, 400K disk, VGA, PIF, hard disk

**Case of use:** 88%

Easy enough to handle for use in a small office or even at home.

**Performance:** 95%

Excellent.

**Value for money:** 91%

It may improve before you're the price.

**VERDICT:**  
A great video effects package, as fast as it is flexible.

**92%**



Welcome to THE Amiga show for the UK...

16th and 17th of May 1998 in the Novotel, London

# THE WORLD OF AMIGA



Come and see the latest developments... the Index/Blittersoft BoXer, the PowerDCE A5000, Siamese, PowerUP, Quake, WordWorth 7, Foundation and more.

See the FA Cup live in the FA Cup final suite!

See the latest developments of OS3.5!

Network gaming, major news, major prizes.

The show that proves the Boing is back in the UK



Tickets £7.50 adults, £5.50 children.  
Ticket Hotline (+44) 01369 708029



trade enquiries / stand info, email [wsa@co-amiga.co.uk](mailto:wsa@co-amiga.co.uk)

# Siamese RTG 2.5

■ Price: £99 ■ Developer: HiQ & Paul Nolan ■ Distributor: HiQ Systems ☎ 01525 211327  
 ■ <http://www.siamese.co.uk>



Who would have thought that the Amiga and PC could be such good friends? Siamese attempts to bridge the gap.

**N**arrated in our "Stars of 97" awards, HiQ's Siamese RTG software offers an intriguing way to exploit the best points of both Amiga and PC simultaneously by redirecting the Amiga's graphics to the PC. On the surface it's a cheap and convenient alternative to adding a graphics card, assuming you have a decent PC lying around that is. Clipping desktop offers at kinds of new possibilities.

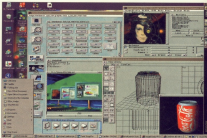
Many Amiga users visit PCs every day, while others wouldn't even pass on a PC if it was on fire. Regardless of whether you fit into either category or sit somewhere in the middle, this is something that deserves every Amiga fan's attention.

However you choose to update your Amiga's display system, you'll need some RTG (Renderable Graphics) software. Put simply, this patches the operating system to intercept all the calls to the libraries that draw graphics. Those calls are emulated with the same graphics data to the new hardware. In the case of 3am graphics boards, the two competing software RTG packages are phase 1's CyberGraphX and Visagecon's Picasso III.

Siamese is similar but with a major difference: it intercepts the graphic drawing calls on the Amiga and turns them into little codes which it can send elsewhere. It can send the codes via a serial cable or a TCP/IP connection. The latter has some rather important repercussions.

At the other end of the Siamese chain is an IBM PC-compatible running the recently-created Bit Canvas Windows kit. Siamese sets up a listening client on the PC that receives the graphic codes and interprets them into Windows 95's equivalent calls.

You can say a lot of things about PCs but one thing is certain: their display hardware is currently streets ahead of what the best Amiga graphics boards can offer. Not only do you get your display to appear on the PC's display but you can benefit from the hardware acceleration on the PC display hardware. For example, here's what happens when *Worldcraft* opens a window... The Amiga OS first sends a call to draw a big rectangle to be filled in with detail data.



▲ Here we see Siamese (top) support it sends through loop back.

Siamese intercepts this and sends a code for a rectangle to be drawn with the specified dimensions.

The client running on the PC takes the code and tells Windows 95 to draw the rectangle. Windows knows about the PC's graphics hardware through the driver and the chances are the card has a hardware function to draw a rectangle virtually instantaneously rather than filling in each pixel. The result is that the window is drawn far quicker than it would be on an EGS or VGA display.

▼ Starting of the display shows coding and getting from Amiga to PC applications.



## One small catch

Even a slow serial connection can send enough of these codes to make many things happen faster than the Amiga's native display. However, not all the graphic data is those building blocks of course - often there's no other way to draw something than by sending an actual bitmap picture. In this case, there's no getting around it that this will take some time to go via serial and the process will slow down.

For the best possible solution you can add an Ethernet card to the Amiga via PCMCIA or a 3com slot and network to the PC via a TCP/IP connection. Now we're talking about 10,000,000 bits per second instead of 115,200 bps. In this set-up even the transfer of bitmaps is sufficiently accelerated that things move along very rapidly indeed.

The bonus is that you can also move other data down the TCP/IP connection between the Amiga and the PC such as an Internet connection. Check out *WinNet World* this month for the details on sharing the PC's Internet connection with the Amiga. You will work perfectly in conjunction with the Siamese RTG.

## Siamese RTG in a nutshell

To understand exactly what Siamese RTG does, you need to understand what RTG, or Remote Graphics, is all about.

The Amiga has its own custom display hardware and for a variety of reasons it's desirable to replace this hardware with higher specification display hardware. Updated display hardware allows the use of standard PC VGA monitors, higher resolutions, high colour depths up to 24-bit and also high refresh rates for a rock-steady display (no need to suffer the flicker of interlaced or the late update of Productivity!).

Siamese RTG uses a PC (and just a PC card) to display the Amiga's graphics. Fortunately the Amiga's Operating System uses some basic 'commands' to draw its screens. A command will be given to draw a line from point A to point B for example, rather than a string of commands to plot each pixel. Windows, menus and so on are built up in this way. These commands can be sent over the link between the Amiga and the PC, then the PC software gets on with drawing the screens. When bitmap sections are sent, things slow down, as every pixel must be transferred.

Siamese won't work with games (or applications) that always automatically write graphics directly to the Amiga's display hardware.



## And there's more...

The most common use for the Siamese software is to run the Amiga's display inside a window on the PC and so benefit from the better display. The rest of the Siamese suite, as covered in earlier reviews, allows sharing of the keyboard and mouse as well as more advanced aspects like printers and even the disposed contents. So you have a single monitor, a single mouse and a keyboard which control both the PC and the Amiga.

Unfortunately because of the nature of the RTG system, it's only going to work when programs use the OS to draw graphics and if course this does not apply to most games. I keep a standard T161 plugged into the Amiga's video output and switch this on as it's required, such as some early-release sequence editing, games, crash messages and so on.

## How compatible?

But exactly how compatible is the Siamese RTG with Amiga software? It's come a long

way since the earlier versions. Overall the compatibility is similar to that of the other RTG systems such as CyberGraphX and PMS. Generally if your software is quite system compliant then it runs fine, but there certainly can be glitches and strange goings on.

Most often this means lines and GUI elements being left behind. There are also some problems from earlier versions which haven't yet been addressed, such as the lack of icon dragging, lines left behind on Workbench and the Preferences program being too big to fit on a standard VGA screen - which requires interface to get to it all. Just as well you can edit the tooltypes to set preferences instead.

Since the Siamese system has moved towards a software only set-up (and HQ no longer manufacture the PC video switch card), they've implemented a parallel port dangle for copy protection. Luckily it plugs into the PC and has a passthrough so it's inconspicuous enough. The software also rather neatly supports the graphic extensions for

▶ Another feature of Siamese is that users of GUI software can again bring the RTG to the front end.

the truecolour display that CyberGraphX pioneered, also adopted by Picasso III. That means that CyberGraphX-supporting applications that are happy to provide a truecolour display will render in truecolour on the PC. Pretty neat, even if it is limited to 16-bit.

Imagine running an Amiga browser on the PC screen - using the PC's net connection and displaying it in a truecolour Amiga window on the Windows desktop. It actually does work!

If you're on the Internet and want to talk to other users of the Siamese system, then you can join the Siamese mailing list run by CU Amiga. Send a single line email to [listserv@cu.amiga.co.uk](mailto:listserv@cu.amiga.co.uk) with 'add siamese' in the body. Steve Jones and Phil Nolan of HQ occasionally make themselves available for support issues in the mailing list.

## Delivers the promises

Siamese RTG 2.5 offers a great deal and delivers most of what it promises.

However this is a complex piece of software and there will be some issues with Amiga software running over it. Thought of purely as a graphics upgrade, it's not really a better option than a graphics board (such as CyberGraphX and Picasso 66 work beautifully with all software). That said it's an inexpensive alternative and can offer far more than just the RTG with the keyboard, mouse, pointer and hard drive sharing on offer in the bargain. You can also do some amazing stuff like sending the entire Amiga's display over the Internet and having someone else control the Amiga. It's not reliable enough to set as an OS/Windows style system but, installed at both ends it can be rather fun.

There's no other software quite like Siamese RTG. If your Amiga usage is limited to OS compliant software and you're willing to live with some old favourites on occasion then Siamese is for you. Siamese is also for you if getting rid of a spare mouse, keyboard and monitor from your PC/home desk is an attractive option, and certainly if you're buying a PC for the first time and don't have the space. All in, Siamese RTG is a sterling software achievement. ■

Mark Robinson

## SIAMESE RTG 2.5

**System Requirements:** 33.3Mhz, 4mb ram, SCSI2 controller, PC using Windows 95

<b>Value for money</b>	95%
<b>Performance</b>	80%
<b>Value for money</b>	95%

**Overall**  
The ultimate PC and Amiga integration.

**92%**







# ISLONA

## WORK, REST AND PLAY, PLAY, PLAY

Over 700  
Games



"Islena ClassicX" is an exciting new specially compiled Islena CD-ROM, where YOU choose what you want you want downloaded on the CD. The game and AmigaBox. This CD also includes many other things like the best-selling games, World Sport, Chess 3, Chess and AmigaBox. This CD also includes many other things like the best-selling games, World Sport, Chess 3, Chess and AmigaBox. This CD also includes many other things like the best-selling games, World Sport, Chess 3, Chess and AmigaBox.



If you see it cheaper, and they have it in stock, we'll match the price!



Islena ClassicX is one of the best-selling Islena CD-ROMs. It contains many of the best-selling Islena CD-ROMs. It contains many of the best-selling Islena CD-ROMs. It contains many of the best-selling Islena CD-ROMs.

CALL 01793 452176 TO ORDER

BSS House, Area50, Cheney Manor, Swindon, UK



Islena ClassicX is one of the best-selling Islena CD-ROMs. It contains many of the best-selling Islena CD-ROMs. It contains many of the best-selling Islena CD-ROMs. It contains many of the best-selling Islena CD-ROMs.



# Font Machine

■ Price: £M129 ■ Supplier: Haage and Partner ☎ +49 8007 93 00 50  
 ■ <http://www.haage-partner.com>



Larry Hickmott discovers a painless way of creating colourfonts for titling video, multi-media and Web projects...

**T**itling is still one area that the Amiga has a strong taste for and with programs like this, it is not hard to see why.

Put simply, Font Machine – by GaspO, makers of X-DIVE – enables you to create colourfonts containing up to 256 colours.

To help you get started, the program also comes with a number of sample colour palettes in various colour depths (up to 256 colours). Also supplied are quite a few sample anti-aliases for creating animated text and static RFP-RGB4 fonts which can be mapped to a font's border or its internal fill.

Once a CompuGraphic or Bitmap font has been loaded into Font Machine, the font can be anti-aliased so edges appear smooth, have bevelled edges added as well as shadows, 3D effects and lots more. All this is achieved by clicking on well-labelled buttons that make using the program very intuitive.

Once a change is made, the font is rendered so you can get an idea of how an effect is working with your font. This is useful when applying borders with fills for example. Too thick a border and the font is irretrievably white (or thin a border and the effect is lost altogether). On a fast Amiga, all this seems to happen in real time.

## Animation and Affixes

Thanks to its Affixes interface, Font Machine also lets you create animated text which can be saved as an animation (Anim2) and AnimGIF formats. The animation process is automated and although this doesn't give you a great deal of control over the process, it should this is something you could change with some tinkering of the Affixes scripts. There are also other useful scripts including a natural one.

Now you may be forgiven for thinking that you need to be some sort of designer to create fonts with Font Machine. Wrong, Font Machine is unlike programs like TypeSmith (Bitmap font programs) where you can draw the font and all its characters, making it a very technical program to use in many respects. Nothing could be further from this with Font Machine.

This is because Font Machine creates new fonts based on existing fonts in your system Fonts drawer. The program also comes with quite a few samples which once



▲ FontMachine lets GaspO's users create ColourFonts with a few clicks of a button that avoid the editing pain.

## In Brief

- Creates from existing Bitmap and CompuGraphic fonts, ColourFonts containing up to 256 colours for use in Basic, Personal Paint and other ColourFont compatible applications.
- Lets you use Animbrushes or normal static RFP images for mapping onto font.
- Uses Affixes to create animation (using Animbrushes) in Anim2 and AnimGIF formats.
- Compatible with CyberGraph.
- Comes with loads of example anti-aliases, textures and fonts.
- Lets you fill independently the border and internal area of a font.
- Distortype support.
- Effects include: Bevels, Drop, 3D, Shadow, Anti-aliasing.



▲ Creating fonts in FontMachine is as simple as loading a font, applying some special effects to it and then saving out again. GaspO's secret!

installed, let you get up and running in double quick time. Because there is no virtual design of the font involved, the process of creating a look for a font is very much an interactive process, which is why it's so much fun to use.

The only time a little patience is needed is when the time comes to save the font. On a standard Amiga and with a full character

set, this process took quite a while but as it's all handy-free, you can always go and do something else while it works away.

## The Interface

As mentioned already, the interface for Font Machine is very intuitive. It's a two layered interface, one for the graphics (the font, palette, textures, and so on) and another for the buttons. Those who have used Deluxe Paint and its palette or even ImageFX, will be right at home with Font Machine.

The only time I got annoyed was when looking for the Affixes button, but a quick read of the manual set me straight. I should have said manuals, because two are provided; one for the original Font Machine R21 and a version 3 addendum.

## What to use it for?

The burning question however is what will you use Font Machine font files for. I can straight away think of two programs that will use the fonts from Font Machine without any trouble, Scale MDCDD and Personal Paint, both of which were given away recently on the cover of CU Amiga.

On top of that, you can add to this list any other program that has ColourFont support such as Deluxe Paint and ImageFX. Which means that although Font Machine seems to be a program for video, it really can be used by a wider range of Amiga users which means no-one has an excuse not to buy it! ■

Larry Hickmott

## FONT MACHINE Developer's Comment

### System Requirements:

Minimum: 1 or 2 meg and hard disk

### Ease of use:

Thanks to the GaspO fonts used in the FontMachine, even without the help of the manual, you can get up and running within half an hour.

### Performance:

On a standard Amiga, operations is rapid and when creating fonts.

### Value for money:

FontMachine is well worth the price.

### Overall:

FontMachine makes creating colourfonts easier than ever.

**90%**

# STFax Professional

■ Price: £29.95 ■ Supplier: Active Technology ☎ 01325 460 116 ■ <http://www.active-net.co.uk>

Good fax software? Yes, but a lot more too.

We get to grips with the new STFax Professional.

**F**or years there has been very little decent fax software for the Amiga. STFax was the only commercial program, but this had a non-standard interface and had problems with many Class 1 faxes. There were also a few shareware offerings, but none of them were easy to use.

Then the shareware STFax arrived, which worked nicely with Class 2 modems, and offered the sort of ease of use that Amiga programs should all have. Now it's been released as a full commercial program, not only does it offer support for all classes of faxes, STFax Professional has answering machine and voicemail facilities when used in conjunction with a voice modem, plus a small 8000 feature.

## Installation and setting up

STFax Pro comes on two disks, containing STFax itself and MUI 3.0. Installation is very straightforward using the standard installer.

The preferences program takes care of all configuration options. Choose your modem from the list provided, or use the default settings if your modem is not listed. I was surprised to see my Motorola not listed, but it worked perfectly with the default settings.

The only snag was the modem taking a long time to reset, this was fixed by reducing the modem timeout in the preferences.

## Fax

Once installed, the fax side worked immediately. This is the first time I've tried a fax program and been able to say that.

Receiving faxes can be done automatically, or by pressing the Receive button when you answer the phone and hear it's a fax call. Once the fax has been received, it appears in the list of received faxes, from where you can view or print it. There is also an option to automatically print each fax as it is received.

Sending faxes is done in a number of ways. You can create the fax within STFax by inserting a text or graphic file, or you can write it directly in the text editor. Pages created like this can have a header added to each page, and a signature appended to the end. Alternatively, you can create a fax in any program that prints via the standard Workbench printer drivers as 'print' it to STFax.

**AMIGA Online**  
What's new at CU Online

You're the only of what's changed recently on CU Online. You asked for it, you got it, now there's no reason not to load up CU Online and keep up to date!

- 1. **Private Info** - There may be a virus on CU Online. Check the CU Online page for further information.
- 2. **Private Info** - The Amiga site update. The update page has now moved to JavaScript, giving the browser equivalent of 'update help' on all browsers.
- 3. **News** - The Amiga site has been updated today. There's some interesting info on the new Amiga news information on the 15.5 version, the Amiga and Amiga Online, and the Amiga Online site has been updated to a new 15.5 version of the Amiga Online site.
- 4. **Amiga Online** - The Amiga Online site has been updated to a new 15.5 version of the Amiga Online site.
- 5. **Amiga Online** - The Amiga Online site has been updated to a new 15.5 version of the Amiga Online site.
- 6. **Amiga Online** - The Amiga Online site has been updated to a new 15.5 version of the Amiga Online site.
- 7. **Amiga Online** - The Amiga Online site has been updated to a new 15.5 version of the Amiga Online site.
- 8. **Amiga Online** - The Amiga Online site has been updated to a new 15.5 version of the Amiga Online site.
- 9. **Amiga Online** - The Amiga Online site has been updated to a new 15.5 version of the Amiga Online site.
- 10. **Amiga Online** - The Amiga Online site has been updated to a new 15.5 version of the Amiga Online site.

▲ The new STFax Pro interface, showing how easy it is to use.

**STFax Pro**

File	Date	Time	Class	Name	Duration	File
1	15-01-95	15:01:01	15.5	Amiga Online	0:00:00	Amiga Online
2	15-01-95	15:01:01	15.5	Amiga Online	0:00:00	Amiga Online
3	15-01-95	15:01:01	15.5	Amiga Online	0:00:00	Amiga Online
4	15-01-95	15:01:01	15.5	Amiga Online	0:00:00	Amiga Online
5	15-01-95	15:01:01	15.5	Amiga Online	0:00:00	Amiga Online

▲ The new STFax Pro interface, showing how easy it is to use.

This means you can write a letter in your favourite word processor and send it as a fax without ever needing to print a copy.

This results in higher quality faxes than sending a printed letter through a standard fax machine, since it avoids the scanning problems of a fax machine. Once you have created the fax, you are asked for the number to send it to, and given the choice of sending immediately or scheduling it for later. So you can create all your faxes during the day, for transmission in the evening.

## Voice too

STFax does a lot more than send and receive faxes, it has comprehensive voicemail facilities. It is supplied set up for basic answering machine usage, all you need to do is record the greeting message, but much more is possible via its scripting interface.

Multiple voicemail boxes with loadable menus are easy to create, making this an ideal addition for a small business. Each mailbox can have a separate password, allowing users access to their messages.



▲ No playback. Add your fax/fax/modem names here. To view all items up an scrolling calls if you have defaults.

## Class 1, 2 or 2.0?

Virtually all fax machines and faxmodems operate with the Group 3 fax standard, but within that standard, faxmodems come in three variants. Class 1 is the most simple, with the faxmodem leaving a lot of the work of encoding the fax data up to the host computer. Class 2 modems have this capability built in.

This means that the computer experiences a higher load when sending or receiving faxes with a Class 1 modem, often disabling multitasking on a lower-powered machine. Class 2.0 is a variant of Class 2. STFax will normally detect the modem class automatically, but it does have an option to force Class 1 usage if you experience problems.



## Faxmodems vs. traditional methods

Using a faxmodem with STFax is not the same as using a standard fax machine or answering machine.

A faxmodem is more convenient for sending faxes generated in the computer, but you are limited to such documents unless you have a scanner. STFax has an *Alpha post* so it would be simple to use the combination of a scanner and faxmodem to send any document. Receiving via a faxmodem is better than a fax machine, plain paper printouts are far more durable than expensive thermal fax paper.

The situation with voice calls is more complicated. Whilst STFax offers facilities that no ordinary answering machine can offer, it is at the expense of sound quality, the voice sampling and playback is handled by the modem itself, and the quality is limited.

Whilst you can record your greeting messages with a normal sampler and import these into STFax, the playback is still not as good as a tape.

from any touchtone telephone.

There are also options to execute Alpha scripts after receiving such fax or voice message, making forwarding received messages to another number, or via email, another option when away from the phone.

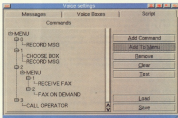
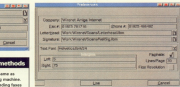
It isn't restricted to simply leaving messages either, you can just as easily create feedback options where callers can request copies of previously created faxes.

If you have Caller ID on your telephone line, and a compatible modem, then you can even leave customized messages for specific callers.

## And there's more...

STFax Professional also has a small SBC system built in. This could be useful for people who want to exchange files without using Internet email, such as businesses exchanging files directly with customers.

Unfortunately, many modems have trouble distinguishing between a fax call and a data call, so its users are limited right now.



However, STFax is being actively developed. The author responds quickly to questions and requests from users and has set up a support mailing list for Internet users.

## Conclusion

This is an excellent application, that is both powerful and easy to use, costing about the same as a cheap answering machine, if reality is a bargain.

Even if you don't own a modem, the combined price of a modem and STFax is still less than a low-end fax machine, although you would need to consider the advantages and disadvantages of faxmodems compared with the traditional solutions. ■

Neil Bothwick

## STFax PROFESSIONAL

### System Requirements:

MS-DOS, IBM PC, or compatible

Size of disk 100K

Fax and modem, either answering machine or required. Some answering machines might not affect fax file size.

Performance 85%

For quality, very good, better quality depends on modem speed. Best testing achieved with IBM 14.4Kbit/s modem.

Value for money 95%

A professional piece of software with a user-friendly design.

**VERDICT**  
An excellent program for use in the home or small business.

**94%**

# CD-ROM Scene

**Andrew Korn is back on the scene with a top little assortment of compact discs. Those of you who are privileged possessors of CD-ROM drives, read on...**

## Aminet 23

■ **Available:** World Science (0-8118-248-3800)

■ **Price:** \$18.99

So Urban Muller's Aminet at last reaches the magic 23. Has it really taken three months to fill the last disc? (Perhaps Christmas, New Year and R&D away crashes at Aminet HQ might have something to do with it.)

Alternately it might just have taken that long to sort through the tide of games, mods and pics that have been flooding into the archive recently.

The price we have to pay for the Amiga being so famously good for creative types is that we are deluged with material from creators fan and foul. Trying to get anywhere amongst the endless vastness of the pics and mods directories is like trying to find Atlantis, a dire hope of winstonian fables beneath a grimy sea of winstonian pollution. Where would we be without the tall Muller to play his stick in and stir 'til the pearls bob up to the top?

The impressive thing about the Aminet discs is the more relevant the subject has become, the more persuasive the presentation. When the Aminet discs first came out, there was just no doubt, you had to have them. Each was a treasure trove on a polycarbonate disc, filled with some of the very best the Amiga had to offer. Now everyone is at it, downloading stuff, sticking it on CDs, whatever. Who, but the compiler, needs to stick to Aminet CDs?

I do for a start. I'm not going to get out my stinking stick, so I will let the admirable Urban do the job for me. The simple but exemplary front end has developed as the disc series progresses and has been honed to a masterpiece. The volume disc is accessible

from a PowerDisk document which will do anything the files in your hard drive, ram drive, ram things, and activate the appropriate player for a project.



There is a thumbnail database program for viewing the pictures folder as easily as possible, and sheets which list games, demos and mods in order of the ability of the software to run cleanly from disc and the compiler personal feelings about the quality of the software.

In terms of content Aminet 23 is not a wonder. It has Adams, and a promising first batch of PPC programs, including the latest initiative with Revault plug-in, a Storm Assembler tutorial, Visc free and C-code compiler for PPC, an early Preview for PPC and a Devstones program for making sure the bloody thing does run fast. It looks like 24 will bring us 10 versions of Doom and another ten dozen PPC apps though.

It's difficult to make a valued judgement on the content of an Aminet disc because it is varied, so is the opinion of the user.

Personally I found it less exciting than many Aminet discs, while still being too full to not be stuffed with interesting things anyway - including another commercial release, TurboGrafx 3.5, its playery. Aminet is a winner if the bad discs are this good, what's more playing! **90%**

## 20,000 Web Graphics

■ **Available:** Elys Marketing (0-8508-131-686)

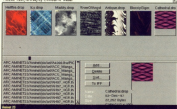
■ **Price:** \$3.99

Here's something I am sure you don't see enough of, Amiga companies selling generic CDs. This is produced by a PC CD-ROM firm, has Windows/95 CD-ROM written on it, but as a simple collection of GIF's it can of course be used on absolutely anything.

There is no Amiga front end, but is very straightforward to browse through the gif's with a file manager such as GPUS. Certainly a proper thumbnail program is a considerably more useful solution. Luckily such programs are not hard to come by; you can always get your computer cataloguing the CD and get out for the afternoon for a bit of sunshine and fresh air.

This is one of those CDs that gives you exactly what it says on the box. The collection is split into GIFs (mostly including many JPEGs) and animGIFs, and covers the general range of images most commonly used. There are large numbers of bullets, buttons, borders, arrows, letters and dividers each in

PowerDisk 1.24/0.6.144 by Christian J. Weber



## In the Aminet drawers this month...

iso1000	hard1000
common1000	misc1000
demo1000	music1000
dev1000	main1000
demo1000	pic1000
demo1000	text1000
game1000	web1000
gifs1000	



a variety of colours, clearly designed for HTML page layout.

The *AmigaGIF* drawer contains much the same sort of thing as the *GIF* drawer, but they move. Here you will find plenty of spinning letters and bullet points, and a far more useful selection of spot illustrations than in the static *GIF* drawer.

The *GIF* drawer has a small collection of 'object' images, OK if you want a star symbol or an image of a flower, but not much else. In the *AmigaGIF* drawer there are animated versions of most national flags and everything from flames and men at work signs to spinning beach umbrellas and pulsating brains. There are a lot of really good animations in here, and any *Illustrator* should be able to find a thing or two to peg up their site.

It would make the disc more useful to Amiga users if there was some convenient way of seeing what was available. *Web Explorer* came with a printed catalogue, but that was rather more expensive. With the space available on CDs, it would be nice if Epic could persuade the company that made this disc to stick a few hundred thumbnails of extra data on the CD to give it an Amiga front end of some type - but then this lot don't even appear too bothered about MACs.

If you can put up with wading through the disc yourself, 30,000 web graphics is a cheap way to get an excellent selection of imagery. The more serious Web designer may consider it worth investing the extra in something with a catalogue. **89%**

## Speedy Classic '98

■ Available: Epic Marketing 0 (0500 131 486)  
■ Price: £10

Here's another one of those multi-format discs (but not for Amiga users and PC users). On it you will find a bunch of snapshots for each format and a large shared resource of files for them both to act upon. In this particular case, that resource is a real collection of games.

Open the games drawer here and the first thing you will notice is that the name of this disc is rather misleading. You might be expecting this to be a Spectrum emulator collection, but in fact it is a Commodore-64 collection by pretty much equal measure. There is a small collection of emulators of

each, which can be run straight from the CD. The quality is mixed, it would have been nice to see the compilers come down in favour of one or other emulator, but it won't take you too long to try them all out and determine which one is the best. My tip would be for *Spectrum Spectrum* emulator and *Prosa Commodore 64* emulator.

Once you load in an emulator, you'll want to load some software too, and this is where snapshots come in. Once a program is loaded into the emulator via an ancient tape or disk drive, the emulator allows a snapshot of its memory to be taken. When this snapshot is reloaded, your emula-



tor will be running that software. Most emulators come with a small collection of freely distributable (for these) snapshots of old games, but they aren't what people want out of an emulator: it has to be the point of emulating a Spectrum if you can't play *Doomdark's Revenge*! With this disc you can. Rather than having to scour the Internet to download game snapshots files of old games, you can find them all here. This disc has an unbelievable collection of games snapshots of just about every classic title you can think of.

There is of course the point that they are pirated. Distributing a snapshot in this manner is a blatant breach of copyright, albeit no-one actually seems to mind. It is a killer on Amiga market, when people assume that it is dead and therefore feel free to put out an emulator for the PC with a bunch of old games that some Amiga dealers are still trying to sell, after all this is taking money



Speedy Classic '98

from an active market through copyright piracy in the case of the Spectrum and Commodore 64, there isn't a market left, so there is probably no-one getting hurt.

Once like this don't tend to call down the ire of games publishers, and I am told that companies producing these sorts of discs give copies to a lot of programmers pleased to see their old work but hear very little from anyone who wants a copyrighted title removed. It remains a breach of copyright, the morals of which your own conscience can decide upon.

There is a real appeal in playing some of those ancient games on an Amiga fast enough to get a bit more speed out of them. There are a few games there that are actually still generously good to play, and there are others which can gain a new, if temporary lease of life - *Lunar Jetman* turned out to be a much better experience running twice as fast as it did on the Spectrum.

If you go to get on my moral high horse and put this disc aside - but not until I've played one more game of *Doomdark*. Oh yeah, and *Ta van Nag*. Oh wait, and *Rocket* as my hamster. **Demo: 80%**



Speedy Classic '98

# DPaint5 CD

■ Price: £19.99 ■ Supplier: Epic Marketing ☎ 0500 131 486 ■ <http://www.salme.demon.co.uk>

**Deluxe Paint:** the program which for nearly a decade was synonymous with the Amiga. A funny thing happened to it though... everyone forgot about it.

**D**eluxe Paint 4 represented a sort of peak for DPaint development – it was doing as much as you could conceivably do with the ECS chipset. For insight animation, it was the package to use. And you could even muck around with HAMs, although I remain unconvinced that anybody actually knows how HAMs work.

DPaint5 was developed and released at a very busy time for the Amiga (that's a constant theme): it was 1994, the bankruptcy of Commodore. The original author had moved on and the source code was picked up by a new team. They laboured to bring DPaint into the '90s, with some modules of display database support, an Affix interface, 34-bit data handling, and Amiga4 (that 288 colour) animation tools. But Electronic Arts was unsure how much they wanted to push the product – it wound up being marketed to their children's software division – and placed side by side with the dominant paint package of the day, Brilliance. DPaint5 looked sluggish and rather old in comparison.

## Been a long time

The bad news is that we haven't heard anything from Brilliance for years now and DPaint5 is no faster than it was in 1994. The good news is that the Acid/Epic re-release on CD is a good deal more affordable, making DPaint5 a more attractive option as a part of your Amiga's array of art tools.

Most people know that these days Personal Paint is the king of the flat paint world. If you're looking for a 24-bit paint program you can try out XPaint, which is quick and very German. DPaint5 is an uneasy middle ground between these two. It takes the up-to-date feature set of PPaint and is not a true colour paint program as XPaint is, but it can store true 24 bit data while your workspace remains 6 bit, and offer all the power and familiarity of DPaint, which many people still swear by to this day.

Aside from offering access to a display database (rather than the faded together screen option for previous versions), DPaint5's biggest changes are in brush handling and paint tools. Selecting a colour brush from a region of a picture was made considerably easier. And the airbrush tool broke out of the single setting mould and allowed custom brush pressure and 'natural' tools like oil-paint and chalk to be used for



▲ Like this old Amiga-style window – the one that started it all



▲ XPaint shows its ability for illustration of metal and stuff.

freelance drawing. DPaint5 can be used on CyberGraphX screens, although the stability is questionable and some operations actually seemed to take far longer, such as simply loading in an image.

Unless you have a special need to be in a very high screen resolution, I would have to recommend sticking with ECSAGA modes. DPaint5's Affix interface is remarkably complete for a first effort. Panned with DPaint's legendary animation capabilities, there are a number of intricate effects you could accomplish by linking DPaint with, say, ImageFX or a CD program like Cinema4D.

The fading of DPaint5, which undoubtedly kept it from being a runaway success in 1994 and still haunts it today, is its speed. The additional overhead of the 34 bit buffer and new capabilities (and new programming) have really impacted on what was a lean and mean program. Some of the problems seem to be issues of optimization – the ellipse

tool, for example, takes an unforgivably long time to operate even on an ORO. This sluggishness is what keeps DPaint5 from seeming like such a great idea. The CD re-release comes with a full black and white 300+ page printed manual, which is a very thorough exploration of all things DPaint. It's ring-bound so it lies flat for easy reference – the downside is that somebody didn't check the operation very well, and the occasional letter or two gets chopped off on a number of pages by the binding holes.

DPaint5 has aged fairly well, the problem was that it was n't a must-have program to begin with. Its feature set, while expanded, still lost a lot of ground to Brilliance, and even later Personal Paint is doing some other things better than DPaint5 can.

The price is just about right, considering DPaint5's down sides. The inclusion to recommend the package for the manual alone – many programs adapted the DPaint feature set wholesale, so learning about them and about Amiga graphics in general through a very professional manual for the price is a decent deal, considering PPaint no longer ships with printed documentation. ■

Jason Coleman

## DPAINT5

**System Requirements:** Amiga412, 4 MB RAM, fast disc. Recommended: 68030, 650, additional RAM

**Ease of use:** 90%

*Intuitive for the experienced and the very familiar interface. DPaint is a veteran*

**Performance:** 77%

*Behind the competition as it says that. Nice for being*

**Value for money:** 80%

*The price point is appropriate. The manual alone is worth it.*

**VERDICT**  
A faded moment for the old always, but its relevance is a good deal.

**83**



# PD Scene

**PD Scene-star Steve Bye chooses to get out his joystick and muck about with it for a living... hard life isn't it?**

★★★★★ **Totally blinding**  
 ★★★★★ **Good**  
 ★★★★★ **Average**  
 ★★★★★ **Substandard**  
 ★★★★★ **Oh dear**

## Monopoly V1.0

**Type:** Board game sim

**Available from:** Norwich PD, 43 Market Rd, Norwich, Norfolk, NR6 6EJ

**Tel:** 01603 504 865

**Price:** £10 + 10 disc

This version of the classic board game has been around for some time now, but it is probably the best non-commercial one I have seen on the Amiga. The game supports 2-4 players, of which any mixture of human or computer controlled player can be implemented. Three versions of the Monopoly board are offered for, Aussie, Tank or Linney, the only difference between these versions are the currency and property names.

The opening screen of options also allows you to configure a few of the rules, one of my favourites here is 'Jailcard on Free Parking'. If you land on Free Parking you get a lump sum of cash from all the times paid in by other players, if any.

The other main option here is whether to lend houses and hotels. In the real board game you are limited to how many physical houses and hotels there are, in this computer version you can choose. Once you have set up your options you can save them if you like and then type in the player names and choose your play tokens before starting the game proper.

Once the Monopoly board is displayed the first real disappointment hits you. The graphics are crap, they are not horrendously crap but they are just plain crap. Also there are no names on the properties, which can make life frustrating. The NTSC sized screen used here's helped the programmer here, but as he is American and NTSC is their screen mode I suppose he had no choice! At this stage most will be put off the game.

Especially when you hear the so called sound effects! They are dire to the extent, what few there are. But once the game gets



under way you forget all about that superficial stuff and you soon realise you can in fact have a really good bit of fun, even just you against the computer, though the computer is fairly easy to beat.

When you consider that the game is a full and totally free gift to the world you actually start to like it a lot. Monopoly V1.0 can never replace the fun of a real physical board with all those fiddly bits and 'real' paper money (but for real money gifts like me it can help replace real humans, which is something the real-life board cannot do).

In the supplied docs the author begs Parker Bros, the copyright holders of the Monopoly trademark not to sue him. If this version had better sound and graphics they may well have! As things stand I think he should be OK. ★★★★★

## European PlayerManager

**Type:** Football management

**Available from:** Norwich PD, 43 Market Rd, Norwich, Norfolk, NR6 6EJ

**Tel:** 01603 504 865

**Price:** £10 + 50 PMF for demo, £1.95 + 50p

PMF full version

This game was originally called British Football and was a pretty lame affair with very few options and little to offer, but this huge update and name change makes it a virtually different game.

The game is now set in the European League and your aim is to plug it out from Division 3 to the Premier League. You can choose to be any team in the 3rd division, which includes 7 British teams. The main

many of the game is along the lines of the great Premier Manager type games and is easy to negotiate with most of the usual options such as Finance, Tactics, Squad, Tactics, Tactics and Loans/Transfers. In the Squad screen you can buy or sell and train players and set up

your tactics for the following match. The match itself does actually lend to a little interaction.

Initially the play screen is the Football Manager type timer and score line, but the difference here is when your team has a shooting chance at goal you take over the reins and can actually shoot at goal using a point-and-click. It's not all that skilful, but it does add a little to the gameplay and keeps up the monotony of constant text screens, which seems to be quite common in this type of game.

Overall EPM is quite good but there is something lacking to make it a blockbuster, but nevertheless it is worth it if you are a football nut. This demo stops at 18 weeks but you can load your saved games into the full version if you buy it. Fair exchange, no robbery! system. ★★★★★

## Geenie

**Type:** Platform game

**Available from:** Underground PD

64 Caversham Close, Shepperton, Bucks.

SP3-992

**Tel:** 01702 595 061

**Price:** £7.50

Geenie is basically a joystick controlled green blob with eyes and legs, having said that, he is quite cute and well drawn, as are most of the visuals in this nice little game. Armed, it would be thought, at the slightly younger player, the idea is to collect 10 coins to complete a level.

Each level is set on a pond of some sort with stones that tend to slip under the water



# Game of the Month



Screen Play: Mage

and then to emerge slowly. If you jump on a stone that is submerged you are sunk, so to speak, and lose a life.

You make your way around the pond collecting bonuses and goodies within the time that is allotted.

After each level you are given a password so you need not do it all again next time, thanks for that. The 'passwords' are actually signs, about 30 of the signs for each level, so write it down carefully or next time you'll lose your head and have to replay it. There's not much more to add except that the whole game is very well constructed and great fun, though I would guess that its longevity is rather limited.

This rate very neatly a cracker. ★★★★★

## Burst A Marble

Type: Puzzle game

Available from: IT Software, 1 Lower Mill

Cox, Goldsboro, Northham, SG2-80Y

Tel: 01708 888 127

Price: 80p plus 75p P&P

Apparently after playing "Burst A Marble II" on a large screen the prospective author of Burst A Marble thought the Amiga command it should get a letter so he got himself a copy of Blitz Basic and here is the result. (What is a very addictive and playable game, with slightly odd, but functional graphics and sound effects.

In real life, little marbles or balls are extremely boring, unless you are a small furry animal I suppose! But in the world of computers and consoles people tend to love them, especially if they can aim a point-counter (again!) at a bunch of other marbles, and

## Death Angel

Type: Shoot 'em up

Available from: Underground PD, 14 Cammisa Close, Shoburyness, Essex, SG2-8Y2

Tel: 01752 285 887

Price: £1.50

What a sensitive title title. This is a love story about... No, only kidding. This is your actual gun-to, killing machine, death or glory, boys love type slaughter house of a game, yes, good news?

Remember the game Flying Shark from many moons ago? Death Angel is very similar to that. You move up the scrolling screen in your trusty attack copier equipped with unlimited cannon, lasers and missiles and try your best to destroy virtually anything and everything that gets in your way, and some that don't as well. There's ships, tanks and other aircraft on offer for you to reduce to molten metal at the flick of the joystick button. That's about how deep and meaningful this

game gets! But that's all you need in this packing little game. Although the difficulty level is set very high you will still have immense fun getting through each level. Some dodges I noticed are things that obscure your vision, which often costs you a life if you do not get out of it fast, and even worse, if you get too fixated with your joystick and start weaving all over the screen like a psychotic kamikaze the game causes you to lose control of your craft and then it disappears off the screen for a few seconds. I presume this isn't a bug? Whatever, it's pretty annoying when you have to weave all over the place to avoid the hordes of shells, tanks, clouds, aircraft coming at you like hellfire anyway. Phew, I enjoyed this game as you can well imagine. Right, I WILL get past level two. ★★★★★



get two or more in a line so they burst! That is what you have to do in this game and it does work extremely well. A game is completed when you or your opponents screen is cleared, or your screen becomes full up with marbles.

There are twelve 1 player levels and the author promises a level designer soon. It looks like a possible double is in the making with this one. ★★★★★

## Captain Custard

Type: Shooters up

Available from: PD Power, 15 Loveston Ave,

Aston, Sheffield, S26-28D

Tel: 01574 186 875

Price: 50p + 75p P&P

This is a free game that is most definitely worth your attention.

Although Cpt. Custard is nothing more than a highly configurable Asteroids clone with superb sound effects and pretty good graphics, it's mean and it's fast paced, but ultimately it is slightly repetitive and becomes boring quite quickly - similar to Asteroids in fact - though I rate the Captain a lot better than the original, that was always yours inducing for me anyway.

To illustrate the complexity of the game

here are the instructions: fly around in Space. Shoot everything. Don't let anything hit you. Set a higher score than last time.

The only time you need to think in this game is when reading the config screen. Here you have a myriad of options such as setting the maximum speed of your ship, acceleration, horizon, banking drag, misses, bullets, stars, enemies, reflex etc. etc. etc.

Don't get me wrong, Captain Custard is a pretty good game for people with a bent for this kind of game, but unhappily not for myself. My personal opinion? Boring. Many will disagree though. ★★★★★



Captain Custard



Burst A Marble

# PD Utilities

This month we've managed to lay our sweaty little hands on another batch of PD goodies, and Steve Bye is the lucky chap who gets to test them all out.

★★★★★ Totally blinding  
★★★★★ Good  
★★★★★ Average  
★★★☆☆ Substandard  
★☆☆☆☆ Oh dear

## Class HD Utils #29

■ **Type:** Utilities collection.

■ **Available from:** Classic Amiga PD, 11 Desmages, Rochelle, Manchester, M30 2SA  
Tel: 0161 723 1928

■ **Price:** £1 plus P&P per order.

There are 12 programs to look at on this 28th release of this popular utility set. Doubler, was the first program I looked at; it is a disk copier vaguely resembling the commercial program, i-Copy, but with very limited features.

WHDLoad is very interesting; it is a system designed to enable hard disk installation of virtually any software, protected or not.

A warning here, WHDLoad is not for beginners, you'll need to know your way around your Amiga and a bit of assembler knowledge is needed to get the maximum benefit. Little Booklock is just a very, very simple address database with virtually no features. It is excellent if you like to keep things simple and I think it's great.

DBMS2HD is a useful program that can unpack DBMS pictures direct to hard drive in a few seconds. FlexChange is a most convenient; you will need to keep the current exchange rates up to date in the data file though.

To finish off with we have a flurry of tiny but interesting odds and ends including: Talktime, which uses the Remstar device to become a speaking clock, I can't think of many uses for it at the moment, but there



Fast Disk Utilities

must be some. SpeedyChip is a patch, including assembly source code that speeds up 68000 processors and SpeedyB is yet another screen grabber.

MyCopyer is a player for Deltrackers that decodes mp3 audio. Manpowerward is a password tool for hard drive users and L2X Keyfile is the key to unlock unregistered versions L2X to the full version, appreciation due to the author, Jonathan Forbes, for that sort of generosity to the Amiga community. Oh and last but not least a couple of neat Workbench backdrops. What more do you want for £1? ★★★★★

## Racing Calculator

■ **Type:** Gambling utility.

■ **Available from:** Vya-Promator, 88 Maidenhead Place, South Park, Cardiff CF3 4RL.

■ **Price:** Unknown.

A nice little game a bit wrong is how Racing Calculator comes across to me. The general idea is that the software will work out your exact winnings for almost any given bet.

OK then, first of all let's take a very simple bet, a Place. This is three selections covered by 3 singles, 3 doubles and a treble. Let us assume all three horses win whatever odds you set and they all win at evens. To work out your winnings first click on the 'Place' button from the main menu. You must now enter the three winners' prices.

To do that you have to convert the prices into a special format, using a chart supplied



Racing Calculator



Racing Calculator

with the program. I don't know why this is necessary, but it is a bit of a pain. Even converts to '3.00' according to the chart.

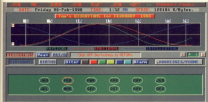
You type in the 3 sets of numbers and get the total winnings £28. If you only had two winners you type a zero instead of the price. All the bets are geared to a £1 stake, which is reasonable but what about if you had an £8 stake?

Or worse £3.75, you may as well work it out yourself. There are 18 types of bet covered and the calculations that I tested the program with worked out fine. As well as the above mentioned niggles the program has a very clumsy and ugly front-end, you often have to click a button 5 or 6 times to find the correct bit to click on which is well dodgy programming.

The author would like £5 which includes postage and packaging for the full version, which is in uncompiled Amiga, so if you know your Amiga you could put most of the programs' faults right in an afternoon, after



Fast Disk Utilities



### Almanac V3

unlocking the procedures.

More work on user-friendliness and personalisation is needed. **★★★★**

### Almanac V3

■ **Type:** Diary

■ **Available from:** Classic Amiga PD, 11, Osmington, Radcliffe, Manchester M26 2PH  
Tel: 0161 723 1838

■ **Price:** £1 plus 75p P&P per order

This splendid looking utility has a lot of features, some useful, some just for fun.

Almanac's main display consists of the current calendar in the top third of screen. Here you can view any year that you desire and you can also place notes on any date you wish.

There is an alarm system so that you are alerted when someone's birthday is due. Clicking on the 'Birthday' button will present you with a list of all the people's birthdays you have entered into the database. From the birthday screen you can also access a birthday chart for any person that is entered on the list.

No program of this kind could be complete without an address book and Almanac is versatile and easy to use. The program also supports a colour code scheme for your diary entries. These codes, say red for anniversaries, can be altered to your requirements by clicking the 'User' button. It doesn't do them either.

Other features include a world time chart, a calculator, a temperature/longitude/latitude, a day counter, which gives you the number of days between any two given dates, a 'Find Easter' calculator and even five sets of music modes to choose from for background music.

Almanac V3 is very easy to use, looks good and works well. Some of the features are a bit naff but there is always someone that will find a use for them I suppose!

Overall though a great little program that could be useful if you don't own a simple diary. **★★★★**



### Almanac V3



### Almanac V3



## Utility of the Month...

### Virus Checker II V1.0

**Type:** Virus killer

**Available from:** Classic Amiga PD, 11, Osmington, Radcliffe, Manchester M26 2PH

Tel: 0161 723 1838

**Price:** £1 plus 75p P&P per order

Only the foolhardy or the ignorant do not have some sort of virus protection on their system. Although the Amiga seems a lot less new virus about these days, the old one's are still out there doing the rounds - luckily most of the older ones are easily spotted and removed using software like Virus Checker II.

The great thing about VCI is that once installed you never have to even think about it until a requester pops up warning you of a suspect bootblock or a virus in memory or what have you. VCI sits hidden in the background of your Workbench and quietly checks any new disks you insert, any files you run and any corruption of vital parts of memory. If you do want to check your hard drive and every file on it you can do that too.

Using VCI you rest safe in the knowledge that nothing but a brand new strain of virus is going to infect your system. Buying the full registered version not only supports the author and helps ensure more updates.

It will also unlock the archive feature. This means any LHA/LZX etc files will be auto-retrieved, unpacked and checked for mistakes, all without your knowledge.

Essential kit and definitely one of the best of its kind. **★★★★**

**Utility of the Month**



# Art Gallery

**Are you a Digital Dali? Computer Carravaggio? Send your pics to:**  
**Art Gallery, CU Amiga, 37-39 Mill Harbour, Isle of Dogs, London E14 9TZ.**

## See your work in print... and win a print, too!

Each month we will declare one picture in the Gallery to be picture of the month - and if it is yours, we will send you a print of your work (but not in an ultra high quality 480 printer on glossy paper (that's around 20-30 quid from a print shop to you, guv'!) - you'll never see your work look so good!

If you want to enter a picture into Art Gallery, either email it to [angel@cu-amiga.co.uk](mailto:angel@cu-amiga.co.uk) or post it in an disk to our normal address, marking the envelope Art Gallery. We recommend the use of PNG format as it saves a lot of disk space, but alternatively GIF or BMP are fine. JPEG drops image quality and should be avoided where possible, and should never be used for images with 256 or fewer colours. ■

**Picture  
of the  
Month**





#### 1. Towed Away by Angus Lee

This render from Scott's Imagine Meister Angus Lee was inspired by the Glasgow police, who towed his car away. The picture took a while to produce because Angus was distracted by the purchase of an N64 and a visit to Hong Kong (leading me to try – but utterly fail – to come up with some jokes about Angus and a very similarly named Hong Kong film director of some repute).

Angus's use of large proportions to build up his models gives them a cartoonish feel and a unique style which while reminiscent of the Pixar-like models of Nick Park makes his work instantly recognisable. Keep 'em coming, Angus!



#### 2. Hard Work Only by Angus Lee

Another picture from the warped mind of Angus Lee. It is close compositions such as this one that set apart the really talented from the merely competent. Angus has always had an excellent ear for a title – graphics may be a visual medium, but a really well chosen title can certainly put the viewer in a better frame of mind to appreciate the image.



#### 3. Stop Over by Steve Parrott

One of Steve's first attempts at an Imagine 4.0 render. It's rather unusual to see a spaceship render of what looks like some kind of commercial spacecraft rather than a police battleship firing lasers all over the place. I've not been on the actual design on the spaceship, although it is nicely executed and very well lit.



#### 4. Pitstop by Jon Mills

Jon produced this image with Cinema 4D v5, SPaint 4 AGA and Image FX 1.5... it makes me think of Wipeout 2007.

Although the curves and planes of this futuristic racer are nicely original, the thing that makes it stand out is the excellent use of decals. I particularly like the idea of the British Racing Green go-faster stripes, although I am not so convinced they look good on the gas-mortal grey background.

#### 5. Goddess by Shaun Lindsey

Shaun used SPaint 4.0 for the core drawing but also Photogenic to produce the 24 bit output that gives this image all those rich colours. The lens flare is a Lightwave addition.

Always nice to see some hand drawn artwork, this spacey image is an intriguing addition to the Art Gallery. The weird black eyes really make this image. It's always eyes we look at first in a face and it can be pretty disconcerting if we don't see what we were expecting.

# User Groups

Here's our regular Amiga user group directory with quite a few new additions since last month. Our aim is to put as many like-minded Amiga users in contact with each other as possible, so be sure to send us in details of your group if you have one.

## Amiga Christchurch Inc.

**Location:** Christchurch New Zealand  
**Contact by:** Phone  
**Contact:** Annette Leonard  
**Telephone:** +64 03 2380233  
**Details:** Meeting times: Second Tuesday of every month 7.30 pm.  
**Places:** Shirley Community centre, Shirley Rd  
**Services offered:** Monthly newsletter, over 2800 programs on disk or CD-ROM.  
**Other:** Magazines & Video library, SIG groups.  
**Address:** 40 PO Box 36-107 Christchurch, New Zealand

## Amigack

**Location:** World Wide-An Amateur Radio  
**Amiga group:**  
**Contact by:** Email ([EdLusig@CarterJacks.net](mailto:EdLusig@CarterJacks.net))  
**Contact:** Paul Carter  
**Telephone:** NA  
**WWW:** None yet...  
**Details:**  
**Meeting times:** None.  
**Places:** On the Amateur Radio Packet network.  
**Services offered:** Radio shows and weekly Amigack bulletins on Packet radio.  
**Other:** We offer a large selection of radio related programs and with a weekly news bulletin on the Amiga scene from around the world.  
**Address:** 18 Belgarda Avenue, Bangor, Co Down, Ireland BT1 8QAA

## Weslandia

**Location:** Belgium  
**Contact by:** Email ([Weslandia@pjs.be](mailto:Weslandia@pjs.be))  
**Contact:** Tony Mees  
**Telephone:** + 32 (0) 3 154 13 18  
**WWW:** <http://titan.gls.be/~wesland>  
**Details:**

**Meeting times:** 12 meetings in month.  
**Places:** We have 6 Amiga clubs in Belgium: Antwerpen, Mellecam, Aalst, Mechelen, Turnhout, St-Albans  
**Services offered:**

- Amiga-only computer club
- focused on 15 computer fairs in Belgium - lessons for experts as well as beginners - a free club magazine of about 50 pages
- free soft and hardware advice
- travel to foreign Amiga fairs
- an Amiga CD library
- close contacts with German companies
- own club CD production
- own Amiga club T-shirt design
- an Internet club with our own Homepage, IRC channel, mailinglist, Amiga Internet helpdesk and a webmaster who is beta-tester for different

and well known programs.

## Other:

We are organising an Amiga computer fair in Antwerp at the end of April with lots of Amiga companies and developers! Please check out our homepage for more info!

**Address:** Lepoldstraat 11, 9140 Stenendrop, Belgium

## Wigan & West Lancs Amiga User Group

**Location:** Wigan/West Lancashire  
**Contact by:** Email ([isamigal@warp.co.uk](mailto:isamigal@warp.co.uk))  
**Contact:** Simon Brown/Wigan Times  
**Telephone:** Simon: 01257 402201 (after 9pm - answerphone other times) or Ralph 01695 820868  
**WWW:** [www.wip.co.uk/~isamiga](http://www.wip.co.uk/~isamiga)  
**Details:**

**Meeting times:** Sundays at 1pm  
**Places:** St Thomas the Martyr School Hall, Highgate Road, Up Holland, Lancs  
**Services offered:**  
 Free PD library free net access, free help, free printing, cheap software, cheap hardware, free tailored scanning. Other: 60+ members (about 25-30 turn up each week) Admission is £2.00. Refreshments are available. Great mobile facilities and car parking.  
**Address:**  
 79 Piddock Road, Appleby Bridge  
 Wigan, WMB L9 5  
 32 Higher Lane, Up Holland, West Lancs

## Alpha Software

**Location:** Newcastle, UK  
**Contact by:** Email ([gary@glafair.co.uk](mailto:gary@glafair.co.uk))  
**Contact:** Gareth Murfin  
**Telephone:** 01970 715454  
**WWW:** <http://www.alpha-glafair.co.uk/~gary/>  
**Details:**  
**Meeting times:** 8.30pm.  
**Places:** IFC A&MFC Galaxy/Net  
**Services offered:**  
**Activities:** Online games, Free Alpha Software.  
**Other:** Support for Gnome 3 and OS/WWP  
**Address:** Alpha Software, Gareth Murfin, 173, Coleridge Way, Collingwood Garage, Cramlington, Northumberland, NE23 6EZ, UK.

## Convergence International

**Location:** International  
**Email to:** [enquiries@convergence.eu.org](mailto:enquiries@convergence.eu.org)

**Contact:** Ben Cloke  
**Telephone:** 02880 888888  
**WWW:** [www.convergence.eu.org](http://www.convergence.eu.org)  
**Details:**

**Meeting times:** 9pm (GMT), Wednesdays and Sundays Places: #Convergence (IRCnet), mainly admin only but members are welcome  
**Services offered:** Comprehensive news service on our web site, fortnightly newsletter, technical support for members, coming soon: a new non-linear hierarchical search engine.  
**Other:** Convergence International is the premier non-Wintel user group, open to users of all non-Wintel based systems. Membership is free and is open to anyone who wishes to actively support the non-Wintel cause.  
**Address:** 48, St. Gilberts Road, Bourne Lines, United Kingdom

## Amiga Club Gent LCCB

**Method:** Email  
**Location:** Gent, Belgium  
**Contact by:** Email ([amiga.club.gent@skynet.be](mailto:amiga.club.gent@skynet.be))  
**Contact:** Bart Verhaeghe  
**WWW:** <http://users.skynet.be/amigalug>  
**Details:**  
**Meeting times:** every 1st sunday of month  
**Places:** Cultural Centre of Gent, meetingroom 1  
**Services offered:** Support for hard- & software related problems, workshops, PD-collection, monthly newsletter, magazine subscriptions  
**Address:** 8, Weg Naar Zwembad 248  
 B-2000 OPGABEEK, BELGIUM

## Polis ITC

**Location:** Poland  
**Contact by:** Email ([danstano@pobbox.com](mailto:danstano@pobbox.com))  
**Contact:** Sławomir  
**Telephone:** +48 61-357 69  
**WWW:**  
**Details:**  
**Meeting times:** all week  
**Places:** no specified  
**Services offered:**  
**Other:**  
 We're Polish cross demo group. We make a DMS, disk magazine and we're Amiga art 100%!  
**Address:** ul. Maciejańska 127  
 11004 Szczecin 10, Poland

## National Capital Amiga User Group NCAGU

**Location:** Washington D.C. USA

Contact by: Phone (send in your phone number)  
 Contact: Main Bell  
 Telephone: 10pm - 1am US Eastern STD Time  
 Details:  
 Meeting times: 12:00 noon EST  
 Places: Dolly Madison Library  
 Services offered: Demos support and help  
 Other: Special Interest Group include the following  
 interest: Music, Programming, Video;  
 New Users: Hardware, Public Domain;  
 and the most important one: PIGA SIG  
 Address: Main Bell, 311 Finchfield Court  
 Sterling, VA 20155-6404 USA

**Amiga World Special Interest Group**  
 Location: Athens, Greece  
 Contact by: Post  
 Contact: Menis Malesianakis  
 Telephone: 301-8008975/8012018  
 WWW: <http://www.computing.gr/amiga>  
 Details:

Meeting times: 17:30 at Saturdays  
 Places: Athens  
 Services offered: Help, translations, contacts  
 etc.  
 Other: Forming developer groups for new  
 Amiga programs  
 Address: Menis Malesianakis, Garmiston 11 str  
 Post Code: 17234, Dafni Athens, Greece

**Amiga Forever**  
 Location: Hampshire  
 Contact by: Post  
 Contact: Stuart Cuth  
 Telephone: 01763 861842 all day  
 Details:  
 Services offered: Amnet  
 Other: Disk mag software exchange  
 Address: 105 Ewell Way, Totton, Southampton  
 Hants SO40 3PC

**Musical Amiga Computer Enthusiast (AMACE)**  
 Location: Benfield, Newcastle, Australia  
 Contact by: Email [amace@irish.com.au](mailto:amace@irish.com.au)  
 Contact: Ken Woodward  
 Telephone: after working hours

Meeting times: 7PM Sat & 2nd Wednesdays  
 Places: Benfield Bowling Club  
 Services offered: help, training, graphics  
 Other: Fun family atmosphere. All welcome.  
 Address: 68 Carley Avenue, New Lambton  
 Newcastle, New South Wales Australia

**Solent - The Surrey Amiga User Group**  
 Location: Surrey  
 Contact by: Phone  
 Contact: Rob Gilbert  
 Telephone: 01892 876306  
 WWW: [www.solent.snet.com](http://www.solent.snet.com)

**Dorset** Meeting times: Monthly  
 Places: Varies  
 Services offered: tower advice, Shoppers/offer  
 sessions, DTE music, Net etc. Other: Newly formed  
 group welcomes any Amiga users in the area for  
 chat, advice etc  
 Address: 10-09 Fox Road, Otterham, Surrey KT16 0HL

**Canberra Amiga Users Society Inc (CAUAS)**  
 Location: Canberra, ACT, Australia  
 Contact by: Phone  
 Contact: Alex Cameron (Secretary)  
 Telephone: (02) 6286 2988  
 WWW: <http://www.apl1.net.au/~jcameron/CAUAS>  
 Meeting times: 2nd Thursday of the Month  
 from 8pm. Places: Weston Town Centre Library  
 (Entry - The Elm Cafe). Services offered: PD  
 Library, Amnet CD's, Bulletin Board System,  
 SIG's, Bi-Monthly Newsletter, Raffles etc. Other:  
 The User group also promotes the Amiga at local  
 PC Computer Fairs.  
 Address: Canberra Amiga Users Society  
 PO Box 598, Canberra ACT, 2601, Australia

**SCAD User**  
 Location: Hirland  
 Contact by: Post  
 Contact: Ken McQuinn  
 Telephone: 01862 260326 (after 5pm)  
 Details:  
 Meeting times/Places: To be arranged  
 Services offered: Hoping to produce newsletter  
 for members  
 Address:  
 11 Lantry Drive, Oragh, Co. Tipper, BT18 5JH

**ICPLUS SE Computer Club**  
 Location: Riggall Hill  
 Contact by: Post, Tel, Email  
 Contact: Les Reed  
 Telephone: 01885 813 878  
 Details: Meeting times: Thursdays 8-10pm  
 Places: Shirley Community centre, Shirley Rd.  
 Services offered: Amiga + PC advice, talks, +  
 demos by experts, buy + exchange, free PG  
 Address: ...  
 88 Rookley Rd, Orington, Kent, SE5 4HJ

**Cothchester Amiga Forum**  
 Location: Cothchester, Essex  
 Contact by: Tel  
 Contact: Patrick Mead  
 Telephone: 0208 213 864 (Friday only)  
 Details:  
 Meeting times: New Group, to be decided  
 Places: Shirley Community centre, Shirley Rd.  
 Services offered:  
 Address: 3 Whitwell Ct, Capford, Colchester,  
 Essex, CO8 1UH email: [pjmead@btinternet](mailto:pjmead@btinternet)

**Luton Amiga User Group**  
 Location: Luton, Beds  
 Contact by: Tel  
 Contact: Dave Noble  
 Telephone: 0552 481 952  
 Details:  
 Meeting times: Monthly, contact for details  
 Places: Shirley Community centre, Shirley Rd.  
 Services offered: Bi-monthly newsletter, PG  
 library

**Deal Amiga Club**  
 Location: Ram  
 Contact: John Worthington  
 Telephone: 01304 367 983  
 Meeting times: 7PM Fridays  
 Places: St John's Ambulance Hall, 148 Hill, Deal,  
 Kent. Services offered:  
 Other:  
 Address: 100 Trinity Place, Deal, Kent

## User Groups, CU Amiga, 37-39 Milharbour, Isle of Dogs, London, E14 9TZ.

Alternatively, fax to 0171 972 6755, or use the online version of the form which can be  
 accessed from our website at [www.eu.amiga.co.uk](http://www.eu.amiga.co.uk) This service is completely free of charge.

General Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Group name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Web site: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred contact method (please tick)

☐ Post ☐ Email ☐ Phone

Details: (e.g. meeting times and places, services offered etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_









All the usual tutorials are here, plus in-depth Internet analysis, Q & A, Points of View, Techno Tragedies...

## 76 Personal Paint 6.6

In part 3 John Kennedy has a complete ball whilst creating low memory Workbench backdrops and collages. What a guy!

## 80 C Programming

Jason Hulse continues with the topic of arguments, plus those compiler differences.

## 84 Surf's Up

Net God shows his/tee (T) mouth off, whilst Neil Bothwick brings you some more Web related news.

## 85 Surf of the Month

We asked Neil Bothwick to make the WWW for some interesting sites... as if he needs much persuasion.

## 86 Wired World

CU Amiga's comics expert, Matt Battinson, has a little rest from his HTML tutorial to discuss the use of 'graphics'.

## 88 Scala MM300

In part 2 of this tutorial John Kennedy tells you how to keep sounds and events in the sweetest synchronization.

## 90 Soundlab

We see the return of Thomas Tran, this time covering the abundance of great Internet sites for audio fans.

## 96 Q & A

Need help with Amiga stuff? Here our panel of experts give away the answers and much, much more.

## 99 A to Z

John Kennedy gives us another list of Amiga related words, this month sees him touching base with the letter G.

## 106 Techno Tragedies

The rapid rise and fall of the poor old Betamax VCR is chronicled by John Kennedy.



# Regulars

## 83 Back Issues

Mixed up on an issue? Shaver? All is not lost though, as you can probably find the offending article here.

## 100 Backchat

Comments, general information, criticism, suggestions. Here's a chance to get your name up there in print.

## 103 Subscriptions

Life is fantastic when you take out subscription to CU Amiga, the UK's best selling Amiga magazine. Oh, joy of joy.

## 104 Points of View

With soap boxes aplenty, CU Amiga's staff and contributors let the world know just what they think about stuff. Or not.

# Amiga Workshop

PART  
3

## Personal Paint

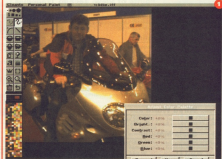
Discover the joys of palette control and create your own low-memory Workbench backdrop and collages without getting into a mess.

Until we all have Amigas fitted with 24-bit graphics cards, the colour palette will remain as one of the key elements of any graphics program. The palette is extremely important for the simple reason that it affects every single image which the Amiga displays. As you know, the Amiga can switch between different graphics modes very simply. However, all these modes – with the exception of the HAM and HAMII modes – have a fixed number of colours. For example, a display mode with 16 colours can only display a picture using 16 different shades.

We can select these colours for a huge range (currently over 16 million possibilities) but the fact remains that only 16 can appear on the screen at any one time. 16 colours isn't a lot, and so the Amiga chipset has been improved over the years to the point when the AGA release (present in the A1200, CD32 and A4000) can display up to 256 colours at once.

However, when you download that high-quality images from a scanner or a JPEG file, say, show colours in 24-bit format – over 16 million again – you soon realise that something has to give. When a 24-bit (or True Colour) image is displayed on a 256 colour screenmode, there are compromises.

Picking the best 256 colours to display a True Colour picture isn't easy. There are lots of ways of doing it, and the techniques which



produce best results are mathematical nightmares.

Thankfully, this is one trick which Personal Paint will happily perform for you. Personal Paint can solve other palette problems too: mixing palettes from several images, re-colouring brushes and so on. Personal Paint is also good at dithering: not failing to make up its mind, but creating new virtual colours by taking advantage of the way in which the human eye works.

This month let's have a look at some of these colour processes, and hopefully you will discover how Personal Paint is an indispensable tool for dealing with any images which contain any degree of colour at all.

### Colour adjustments

One of the simplest, and yet most effective, alterations you can make to an image is to adjust the brightness, contrast and relative strengths of the red, green and blue components. The ability to fine-tune details like this can make all the difference to a badly scanned photograph, or a digital camera image taken under



Before and after: a digital-camera image, rendered in 256 colours, is tweaked with Personal Paint to increase the contrast and improve the blue component.

poor lighting conditions.

The effect works best when the image is displayed in 256 colours to start with, so this allows more subtlety in the adjustments. As with most image processing, you can't create information where there isn't any – if you wrap the settings too

far, the final image will look false and lack detail.

Here's an example of how the colours have been adjusted to improve a digital camera shot. By using the 'Adjust' option from the Color/Palette menu, it's possible to fine-tune the image and increase the



▲ The Image Format box in the Project menu is quickly reduce the number of colours used in an image.

contrast. With digital cameras, it seems the blue component is the weak link (this is often due to the image compression systems used, which store the blue component with less detail) and so it pays to experiment with the blue slider. **1**

## Colour reduction

Reducing the number of different colours in an image is a common problem. For example, let's say you have a True Colour, or 256 colour image which you want to reduce to 16 shades and so use as a WordPerfect backdrop.

There are at least two ways of doing this. The first technique is to use the Image Format from the Project menu. This is the responder which is used to select the screen-mode which Personal Paint uses. Notice the slider marked "Colors": decrease this and Personal Paint will drop the excess colours and re-open its window using the new colours. You can also adjust the screen-mode resolution at this point, and so

crudely shrink the image at the same time. **2**

As you can see from the example, backing down the number of colours in this way can almost totally destroy the image, and we'll see how to improve upon that in a minute.

First, of all though, there is another slightly more subtle way of reducing the number of colours. In fact, there is a specific menu option called Less Colors, from the Color menu – sorry about the American spelling by the way, you know what these crazy Italian programmers do like. This option allows you to reduce the colours used in the image down to any number in the range 2 to 256. What it doesn't do is change the screen mode. It simply maps a given number of palette pens from being used, and sets their colours to white.

Who would you do this? Simple. Let's say you have a scanned photograph, and you want to make some additions of your

own. Anything from a subtitle to a sketch of a picture frame. By freezing up some palette pens, you are free to redefine them and use them as you want. If you tried to use the existing colours, you would be unlikely to find the right shade was available. If you changed it, it would corrupt the entire image. **3**

Always remember that when saving an image after using "Less Colors", that the original screenmode is preserved. Use Image Format to adjust the screenmode to something more suitable. There is no harm in saving an image which uses 16 colours as a 256 colour screenmode file – but you are wasting memory, storage space and resources such as Chip Memory when displaying it.

## Improving your image

Although useful, the results of displaying an image using less colours than the original always causes a degradation in quality. You can see this clearly in the previous example, as the image becomes grainy and finally looks down to near 24-Spectrum quality. As promised, there are several ways to improve upon the results we've obtained so far, namely the colour reduction technique used by Personal Paint, and the introduction of dithering.

There are two colour reduction algorithms used by Personal Paint: Qualitative and Quantitative. The differences between them are subtle, and it's best to experiment to see how they will affect your final image. You can choose between them from the Settings menu under Color Reductions.

Switch between the two settings before altering an image to see if



▲ With "Less Colors" you can reduce the number of active pens, and fix personal ones for your own purposes.



▲ You'll need to look closely to see the differences between the Qualitative and Quantitative colour reduction modes.

you can spot the difference. **2**

If by far the greatest improvement in image quality is made by dithering. Dithering does the impossible: it adds more colours to the image.

It does this by placing two different coloured pixels side-by-side, and counting on the fact that the human vision system will average the pixels to get a new colour. This same technique is used in printed media, to produce coloured images from only three or four key colours; and on television screens – its looking very closely to see the dots of red, green and blue.

Personal Paint can dither an image, and so create the impression of more colours. Here's an example. Both of these images have been converted from a true Colour digital camera image to only 256 different colours. The one on the left has been converted in the usual way, and the one on the right by using dithering.

At first glance they probably look extremely similar, but look more closely at the oranges. Notice how in the right-hand image there are definite bands of colour, and yet this is not the case in the dithered image. This is the effect which dithering achieves. **3**

In this magnified view you can see how the dithering changes pixel colours to give the effect of new shades. Although there are the same number of colours available, the dithered orange looks considerably better – especially when it is viewed at high resolution or from a long distance. **4**

Look at how with dithering switched on, even a picture reduced to two colours looks more recognisable. If you have a black and white printer, its using dithering to convert your images before printing them. **5**

This dithering technique is ideal for converting a colour image into something more manageable for storage as a WordPerfect backup. All you have to do is use the Settings menu, to switch the dithering from None to Patterns or, preferably, Floyd-Steinberg, and then load in your favourite image.

Select the Best Quality option if you can stand the extra waiting that's involved. **6**



**2** The image on the left has been converted to 256 colours, and is the image on the right. However, the left-hand image has been dithered. Can the difference?



**4** Look closely and you'll see the dithering in action.



**7** With dithering, even two colour pictures look a lot better.



**8** There's no saving for a full Windows desktop view, but you can use it to select, modify or dithering.

## Multiple palettes

After Personal Paint so carefully created a palette for each image on an individual basis, it seems too much to expect that several images can



**9** The second picture appears as a semi-white colour, as all its colours are lost to the existing image.



**10** It gets messy when you load the image in back to front.

exist on the same screen at once. For this is possible. Personal Paint will merge the second image to make the most of the existing palette. To see this in action, load in a colourful picture in the conventional way.

Now load in a second, perhaps smaller, image as a brush. You'll probably see something like this: the new brush appears as a load of mush, as its colours are currently defined to different values by the first image. **11**

To sort it out, all you have to do is select Colors/Palette from the Brush menu. Personal Paint will automatically alter the second image to make the most of the existing palette. **12**

Personal Paint has many more Palette-control features, which we have neither the time nor the space to begin covering here. However, Personal Paint is such an easy program to use, all you have to do is experiment a little to find out some exciting new ways of dealing with your images. Good luck! **13**

John Kennedy

# White Knight Technology

AMIGA & Desktop Video Specialists  
\*TELEPOST AM03357, WARE, HERTS, SG11 1YA



PHONE  
**01920  
822 321**  
9.30 - 5.30 Mon - Fri

Fax 01920 822 303

We Accept  
MasterCard  
Visa, Delta  
Credit Cards  
E.C.C. Finance  
Direct Debit  
We also accept  
cheques  
Send Day Delivery Order Just £3.95

Prices INCLUDE 17.5% VAT

UK Authorised Distributor For PHASE 5 DIGITAL PRODUCTS

**PHASE 5**  
**DIGITAL PRODUCTS**  
*Computer Graphics*

**CYBERSTORM**  
**PPC**  
**AMIGA**

**POWERUP**  
**AMIGA**

**68k Series Accelerators**  
For A3000 / A4000

**CYBERSTORM MK3**  
50MHz 48660, with Ultra-Wide  
SCSI-3, up to 128Mb £ 479

For A1200 Only

**BLIZZARD 1200 Turbo**  
50MHz 060 (plus Trapdoor) £ 309  
SCSI Controller £ 42

**PowerPC Accelerators**  
For A1500 & A2000

**BLIZZARD 1500 Turbo**  
Expected Release Date 04/98  
Circorad Ultra-Wide SCSI-3,  
Socket for CyberVision PPC

**160MHz PPC 604e & SC51-3**  
with 66060, 50MHz £ 709  
with 66040, 25MHz £ 599  
without 040 / 060 CPU £ 559  
UPGRADE from 2000 to 3000 £ 525

**200MHz PPC 604e & SC51-3**  
with 66060, 50MHz £ 839  
with 66040, 25MHz £ 699  
without 040 / 060 CPU £ 649  
UPGRADE from 2000 to 3000 £ 615  
All upgrades require a Phase 5  
order form. Call if you need one.

**CyberVision PPC**  
Expected in April - No Price Yet  
Please call for current details.

**34-Bit Graphics Card**  
**CYBERVISION 343D**  
CYBERVISION 343D £ 144  
CV 343D Scandoubler £ 82

**PowerPC Accelerators**

**White Knight**  
**POWERUP**  
AMIGA'S MOST POWERFUL  
Supplier Of Choice for The  
Most Discerning Customer

**CYBERSTORM**  
**PPC**

**For A3000/T & A4000/T**  
Circorad Ultra-Wide SCSI-3,  
Socket for CyberVision PPC  
**160MHz PPC 604e & SC51-3**  
with 66060, 50MHz £ 749  
with 66040, 25MHz £ 599  
No 68k Series CPU £ 529  
UPGRADE from Mac or IBM £ 499

**200MHz PPC 604e & SC51-3**  
with 66060, 50MHz £ 849  
with 66040, 25MHz £ 699  
No 68k Series CPU £ 629  
UPGRADE from Mac or IBM £ 599

All upgrades require a Phase 5  
order form. Call if you need one.

**For A1200 Only**  
**BLIZZARD 1200 Turbo**  
50MHz 060 (plus Trapdoor) £ 309  
SCSI Controller £ 42

**Blizzard 600e Power Board**  
160MHz with 040/025 £ 255  
160MHz with 060/50 £ 489  
300MHz with 040/25 £ 315  
300MHz with 060/50 £ 549  
300MHz with 040/25 £ 375  
300MHz with 060/50 £ 619

**Blizzard 600e Power Board**  
160MHz with 040/025 £ 309  
160MHz with 060/50 £ 545  
300MHz with 040/25 £ 369  
300MHz with 060/50 £ 615  
250MHz with 040/25 £ 429  
250MHz with 060/50 £ 675

NOTE: Blizzard 600e and 600e Power  
Boards are approved only for use in CE  
approved (marked) A1200 cases.  
Upgrades require the Blizzard 2000, 4000 or  
A1200 order form completed by Phase 5. Call

**SCSI Hard Drives**

**3.5" Bare, ULTRA SCSI-3**  
ULTRA SCSI-3 in Comparison with SCSI-1 & 2  
2.1Gb (44k CapExon) (44k) £ 169  
4.3Gb (88k CapExon) (88k) £ 255  
4.5Gb Seagate Hard (7200) £ 209  
4.5Gb Seagate Hard (90k) £ 315  
4.5Gb (44k CapExon) (7200) £ 409  
44k CapExon / Seagate - Same Price

**IDE Hard Drives**

**3.5" Bare, For A4000**  
These drives are NOT suitable for internal  
fitting in an AMIGA 1200 or A1200 500  
They can be used in A3000 System  
With a properly buffered IDE interface  
1.7Gb Seagate Ultra Data £ 119  
2.1Gb Seagate Ultra Data £ 129  
2.5Gb Seagate Ultra Data £ 139  
3.0Gb Seagate Ultra Data £ 159  
4.3Gb Seagate Ultra Data £ 189

**IDE Hard Drives**

**2.5" Bare, For A1200**  
1.4Gb IDE £ 189  
1.8Gb IDE £ 189  
Cables, SW & Screws £ 10  
Call when purchasing a drive

**CDROM Drives**

**Internal Fitting - NOT for A1200**  
24 x Speed Sony scsi £ 109  
Sony SCSI-2 CD Writer £ 269  
24 x Speed Sony scsi £ 65  
32 x Speed ATAPI / IDE £ 85  
External CDROM with Cables etc  
24 x Speed Sony scsi £ 199

**Cartridge Drives (SCSI)**

Syjet 1.5Gb (x 1) - Data £ 289  
Syjet 1.5Gb (x 2) - Data £ 289  
Syjet 1.5Gb Cartridge (x 2) £ 159  
ZIP 100Mb (x 1) - Data & Form £ 135  
ZIP 100Mb (x 2) - Data & Form £ 135  
ZIP 100Mb (x 2) - Data & Form £ 135  
JAZ 100 (x 1) - Data & Form £ 269  
JAZ 100 (x 2) - Data & Form £ 279  
JAZ Disk (x 3) £ 239  
EZ Flyer 230Mb (x 1) - Data £ 135  
EZ Flyer 230Mb (x 2) - Data £ 57  
All drives supplied with one disk

**Networking**

HYDRA Zero Ethernet £ 159  
A1200 PDMCA Ethernet £ 129

**Memory SIMMS**

8Mb 72 pin 60ns EDO £ 19  
16Mb 72 pin 60ns EDO £ 36  
32Mb 72 pin 60ns EDO £ 75

**The CyberStorm PPC**  
50MHz 48660, with Ultra-Wide  
SCSI-3, up to 128Mb £ 479  
UPGRADE from 2000 to 3000 £ 525

**Genlocks**

LOLA 2000 (with 2 yrs) £ 349  
LOLA 1500 (with 1 yr) £ 179

**SIRIUS** (with 2 yrs)  
Plus Audio & Chroma Key  
Software control £ 599

**NEPTUN** (to Genlock, but without  
audio, RGB & Chroma Key) £ 449

**AMIGA 4000T**  
With 040/060, 68k, NO HD  
£ 1,179  
Without CPU, 68k, NO HD  
£ 1,049  
Add CyberStorm PPC, Drive & SCSI  
Configured FREE - If Required

**Monitors**

17" Moniview Mymc £ 419  
For all screen modes £ 419  
17" Hi-Res SVGA £ 349  
16" Hi-Res SVGA £ 179  
14" Hi-Res SVGA £ 149  
Note: To use any SVGA monitor, Amiga  
must be a Supermodel or Master II or 7  
14" 10045 Refreshed  
PAL, with stereo sound £ 159

**Amiga Software**

AMIBOX 2 Backup SW £ 25  
MULTIMEDIA EXPERIENCE £ 40  
TUTORIAL 3.8 Student £ 25  
TUTORIAL 3.8 Manager £ 15  
CLARIS Professional V2 £ 159  
ADDRESS V2 £ 89  
MOVEMENT DESIGNER V2 £ 219  
MOVEMENT for Casablanca £ 119  
MOVEMENT CREATIVE CD £ 59  
ARMADE V1 £ 89  
ADDRESS MUSIC Workshop £ 89  
ADDRESS MUSIC Casablanca £ 59

**Specifications ?**

If you need technical details  
on any of our products, call us  
on 01920 822 321 weekdays.  
White Knight Technology  
are renowned for excellent service.  
We Are Still Supporting  
**AMIGA !**

Please Call Us to Verify Price &  
Availability Before Placing An Order.  
Goods Are Not Sold On A First Basis  
Minimum Order Value £ 50 + P&P  
Many prices subject to exchange rate  
E & C 12 - 11/05/98

# Amiga C Programming



**Workbench, icons and more arguments. Plus some compiler differences.**

**A**fter last month's in-depth look at the "ReadAmiga()" function, you'd have thought we'd be finished with arguments. But that's not yet quite the case because we haven't yet considered the effects of running our program from the Workbench.

Unfortunately, the way a program interacts with Workbench is quite different from the way command-line options are supplied, so we're going to look at how we can allow the user to do the same kinds of things from both the CLI and Workbench.

## Workbench startup

The Workbench is more concerned with icons than text, and the user supplies file (or drawer) arguments to a program by selecting the appropriate icons at the same time as starting the program.

These icon arguments are passed to the program as a message which it must interpret at the start of the program. In the bad old days, Amiga C compilers didn't necessarily understand this and programs could only be run from the CLI. If you tried running from the Workbench then the Workbench startup message would be ignored and the system would eventually crash (usually on the first "printf").

Nowadays things are a little more sane, and so the program we've been creating is perfectly safe to be run from Workbench (assuming you're not using a very old or stupid compiler). However, the special features of a Workbench installation are not exploited at all. In fact, StormC plays very safe by default, and just handles the Workbench message and quits the program.

So we've now stumbled across one of the first real differences in compilers: the way Workbench programs are started.

There are numerous other differences that programmers have to cope with if they want to write 'portable' code, but this is one that is clearly outside the scope of any ANSI standard for C (it's obviously very particular to Amiga programs). We're so far kept away from any compiler-specific issues, and tried to keep our program as portable (across Amiga C compilers) as possible.

For the first time we're going to support only the Amiga standard (as dictated by SAS/C) and the two modern compilers, StormC and Maxx4860FT C++ (which don't follow the official standard, for some reason). If your compiler isn't compatible with either of these approaches then you'll need to consult its manual to see how to exploit a Workbench startup, and adjust the code accordingly.

In SAS/C, the invocation of

## CLI versus Workbench

A program can be started from the CLI (or Shell) or from Workbench. The former is the normal way most programmers run things, since they're often messing around in a CLI.

Conversely, beginners normally start programs through the Workbench, since this provides a considerably more friendly environment.

However, it's the programmer who must pay for this increased friendliness and cope with the complexities of a Workbench startup, not least because C's heritage owes more to CLI than GUIs.

## Example 1

```
/* The CLI starting point for StormC, but the general start for SAS/C.
void main(int argc, char** argv)
{
    /* argc should never be zero: SAS/C uses this to indicate WB start.
    if( argc == 0 )
        return(aboutWorkbench)*argv);
    else
        return(1);
}

/* The WB starting point for StormC.
void aboutWorkbench(void)
{
    /* WB-specific startup could go here.
    return(1);
}

/* The start of the program.
static void readmain()
{
    if(readAmiga()
        handleCMF();
    freeAmi();
}
```

Workbench and CLI invocation is fairly seamless and the "main()" function is always the starting point of the program, even if it's been run from Workbench.

However, it does slightly abuse the convention of the "argc" and "argv" arguments to "main()", as we'll see, but it's a technique that's been officially sanctioned on the Amiga. StormC, on the other hand, goes against this standard and ignores "main()" completely if the program is started by Workbench. It starts the program at a function called "aboutmain()", instead, and this does nothing by default, although your program can redefine it. This convention is shared (unsurprisingly) by Maxx4860FT C++.

The first step is to overcome these compiler differences and separate our real starting code from both "main()" and "aboutmain()". In the process, we'll be creating places for any CLI-specific and Workbench-specific code to live in: in "main()" and "aboutmain()", respectively.

The first example on the disk

"fwd01" changes "main.c" to include this scheme, and supplies an icon for the program so it can be run from Workbench. As you can see from the code (shown in Example 1), SAS/C uses an "argc" of zero to "main()" to indicate a Workbench start and this fact is used to redirect the program to "aboutmain".

The "aboutmain()" argument contains the Workbench message mentioned above. We'll look at it in a little more detail later.

## Workbench startup

A program has a different environment and different responsibilities when it's run from Workbench rather than a CLI. The main difference is the presence of an initial startup message and the absence of standard input and output (since there's normally no console). Modern compilers use startup code that handles these differences safely, without too much effort by the programmer.

## Tool types

An array of strings are stored in a program's icon. Like the default tool, these values can be edited by the user via the "Information" menu item. Tool Type strings are limited only by convention to items of the form "OPTID=value", a format which is supported by the Tool Types functions in the icon library. Programs are free to use Tool Types how they like; an extreme example of this is *NewsIcons* which actually stores its icon as forty strings in the normal icon's Tool Types!

## Workbench arguments

The arguments are usually supplied to a Workbench program by selecting icons, but here are the other configuration options specified. The answer is that should be obvious: you use the program's Tool Types, which are stored in the icon.

When a program is started from the GUI, the first entry in the "args" array is the name of the program, in a similar way: when it's started from Workbench the first entry in the "about" *WBSStartup* message's argument list is a reference to the program. So, to get the Tool Types we use the argument list to find the icon for the program.

The second example ("b1") shows how to use functions from the icon library to get tool of a program's Tool Types and extract the options and arguments (the significant changes are in "createB1"). The same two options as in the "ReadArgs" version are supported, and we're back to using "atoi" to turn the "DEPTH" string into a number.

This new Tool Types code is shown in the extract in Example 2, and it's pretty straightforward. It follows a similar structure to the "ReadArgs" code, essentially in the delayed feeling of the icon (about in "b1").

One important point to notice is the handling of the argument list from the startup message. Each entry is a pair of a directory path and filename. To access the file for its icon the current directory must be changed to that indicated by the path (using "CurrentDir"). The file can then be referred to by name (although the name for directories and files is a real pain, as it is only the

250 WORLD MAPPER



Workbench is InfoPanel! ▶

## Default Tool

Every project icon has a default tool associated with it that is run when the icon is double-clicked. The tool is started as if the user had selected it directly, with the project file as the first (real) argument (so, the second entry in the "new\_ArgList"). An icon's default tool can be changed using the "Information" item on Workbench's "Icons" menu.

look that's required.

After copying the file, the current directory must be set back to the original directory.

## Default tool

One remaining issue is the use of icons. What can our program do with the icons that are supplied with it when it starts? The answer highlights a missing feature: we can't yet specify the initial picture file to be loaded.

To be consistent we need to extend both the GUI and Workbench code. For the former, this involves adding to the "ReadArgs" template and allowing an optional filename to be specified. For the latter, we need to make use of the supplied argument list again. Since it's not sen-

## Example 2

```
#WBS use Tool Types *)
DEPTH=0 ← CurrentDirectory → new_ArgList[0] as IconID
IconID ← GetIconObjectFromArg → new_ArgList[1] as NameID
LIBTYPE="" ← (LIBTYPE+IconID)+ide ToolTypes
char* default = FindToolType(TT_DEPTH);
pathname = FindToolType(TT_PATHNAME);
/* Use the default if a tool type was not specified */
if(pathname == NULL)
    pathname = DEFAULT_PATHNAME;
depth = atoi(depth);
else
    depth = DEFAULT_DEPTH;
}
PModule
CurrentDirectory;
```

sible to load multiple files, we'll ignore all but the first real icon argument (ie, "idname" → new\_ArgList[1]).

The third example, "w2", adds the appropriate code to "main.c" and fiddles with the "load" function (in "loadwin.c") to separate out a "loadlib" function. These changes enable our program to be specified as the default tool on project icons (but only for IFX/IBM files). Double-clicking on such icons will launch

our program and make the picture its initial image, all in one go.

## Saving icons

The above enhancements suggest another feature concerned with Workbench: when we save a file we could save an icon with it, and have that icon's default tool set properly. The first part of this is pretty simple, needing just a default project icon and way of saving icons.

The last part is more challenging:

## Example 3

```

/* A place to store our program name for the default tool */
static char programName[MAX_PATHLEN];
char* programName;

return programName;

main void setProgName(BPTR dir, char* file)
{
    *programName = 0;
    NameFromLockfile(programName, MAX_PATHLEN);
    AddPathToName(file, MAX_PATHLEN);
}

/* The GUI starting point for StormC, but the general start for SAGC */
void main(int argc, char** argv)
{
    /* argc should never be zero: SAGC uses this to indicate WBS start */
    if (argc == 0)
        submain(stormc_startup) *argv;
    else
    {
        BPTR dir = (BPTR)PROGDIR, ACCESS_READ;
        setProgName(dir, argv[0]);
        UnlockFile;
        mainWinMain();
    }
}

/* The WBS starting point for StormC */
void submain(stormc_startup) *argv
{
    /* WBS-specific startup could go here */
    setProgName(stormc_startup, "stormc");
    submain(stormc_startup);
}

```

we need to discover the full path of our program. For a Workbench startup, the relevant information is held in the first item in the startup message argument list.

For the GUI, we can make use of the "PROGDIR" assignment and the filename typed to invoke the program (in "argv[0]"), and if we use the DOS library's "AddPath" function we can cope with the user having specified a complete path like "disk:dir(prog)" or a partial path like "dir(prog)".

The final example, "wbs", adds this functionality to "main.c" (see Example 3) and updates the "save" function in "loadsave.c" (see the detail in Example 4).

## User friendliness

There are a number of features of our program that are not particularly friendly.

For example, our picture loader does not ask the user for confirmation before destroying the existing picture. And the new icon saver we've just added writes out an icon without testing whether one exists already.

See if you can find any more of these 'problems' and have go at fixing them. You might like to try our function's "EasyRepeat" function. I'll be seeing you next month for another fan-packed installment! ■

Joan Holmes

## Example 4

```

/* Write an icon for the file */
static DiskObject* dobi = (DiskObject*)0;

{
    /* Temporarily change the default tool */
    char* dobi = dobi;
    dobi = dobi;
    dobi = dobi;
    /* Write out our icon */
    PutDiskObjectIcon(dobi);
    /* Reinstate the default tool */
    dobi = dobi;
    dobi = dobi;
    FreeDiskObject(dobi);
}

```

# Support Amiga Software Now!!!

RING US TODAY  
**01908 370 230**

## DreamStudio

upgrades

**£29.95**  
(floppy disk)



compact disk

**£39.95**

## OTHER PRODUCTS

ProPage Manual .....	£14.99
ProPage Book .....	£14.99
ProPage Book Bundle .....	£34.99
ProPage Book CD Bundle .....	£39.99
DreamStudio Book/CD .....	£14.99
DreamStudio Book/Floppy .....	£12.99
ImageStudio Manual .....	£3.99
Personal Paint T.J. .....	£29.95
SubEditor 6 .....	£ call
Wordworth 7 Manual .....	£8.99

## PAGESTREAM EXTRAS

Swift .....	£29.95
JMS Filter .....	£14.99
Gary's Effects .....	£14.99
Wordworth Filter .....	£14.99
True Type Font Engine .....	£14.99
Border Vol 1 .....	£25.00
Border Vol 2 .....	£25.00

Buy PageStream 3 from G.H. Publishing and get £3 off each of the above!

## PageStream

dtp

Version 3.3 New Shipping

BUY IT *today*  
**£125**

We accept most major credit cards including VISA, MASTERCARD, EUROCARD, SWITCH

Mobile Charges/Postal Orders payable to G.H. Publishing, 65, Langford, Epsom, Surrey, Surrey, Surrey

24 hour Hot Order Line: +44 (0) 1908 045 371

**GH** publishing







# Surf's Up!

This month sees lots of goings on in the browser business. New releases, new capabilities and news from an unexpected quarter.

## NetGod speaks

With the recent announcements about Opera being ported to the Amiga and Netscape releasing their source code, a lot of people have been jumping up and down with sheer excitement over the "new" browsers that they expect to be receiving.

But let's not forget that we already have three extremely capable browsers — browsers that have been created especially for the Amiga by programmers who are dedicated to our computer.

Most of the extra "features" offered by the big browsers are actually plugins. Things like Java, RealAudio and Shockwave are not handled internally, and are unlikely to be included in the Netscape source code release. These are two main reasons for these not being available.

The first is that most current Amigas don't have the CPU power to handle these effectively. Even with the sort of coding genius that goes into programs like MPEG4 it's still a heavy load. This will change now that the progression to PowerPC has been confirmed.

The second reason is that many of these use a proprietary data format, and the owners will not release it for porting to the Amiga, possibly largely influenced by the first factor.

It may turn out that the real benefit of a port of Opera is that it shows the mainstream companies that the Amiga is capable of doing the same things as PCs and Macs.

## Opera for Amiga? Soon.

A new, multi-platform browser looks like it will also be available for Amiga users. Opera has gained quite a following in the PC world as a small and efficient browser, compared with the Microsoft and Netscape offerings. Now Project Magic plans to port it to a number of other operating systems, such as MacOS, Linux, OS/2 and AmigaOS.

A few days after asking for feedback from users of other platforms, they posted this message on their web site:

"Opera Software has officially added the Amiga platform to Project Magic, and the work came out in

drives. In less than three days, the numbers surpassed those of the Linux/OS/2 platform, and there is no end in sight."

For more information see [http://www.operaoftware.com/1\\_0\\_en.html](http://www.operaoftware.com/1_0_en.html)

## Netscape for Amiga? Maybe.

In a surprise move, Netscape have announced that they are to release the source code for the next Netscape Communicator for free licensing.

"The company plans to post the source code beginning with the first Netscape Communicator 3.0 developer release, expected by the end of the first quarter of 1998." The terms of the license aren't totally clear yet, but it is possible

that we could eventually see an Amiga version of Netscape.

## JavaScript for Amiga? Now!

JavaScript has finally reached the Amiga. One of the most useful features of the World Wide Web is accessible to Amigas at last.

Amib 3.1 was released in mid-January, with full support for JavaScript 1.1. A JavaScript version of Voyager should be out fairly soon, along with an update to Winwww at some time. JavaScript 1.1 is the version used in Netscape Navigator 3, while the later 1.2 will be released as an upgrade. JavaScript, not the same as Java, is a scripting language where the scripts are contained in the HTML of a web page.

This allows web authors to do things that were previously only possible with custom server-side "CGI" scripts, a facility not normally available with standard dialup ISP accounts.

Other new additions to the Amib update include: internal image decoding, internal email and news, secure connections, support for HTML 4.0 and several other changes. The update from 3.0 to 3.1 is available free of charge from <http://www.amibits.com/amib3.html>. As you would expect, there is an exclusive beta version on this month's cover CD.

## RealAudio for Amiga? Sort of.

After JavaScript, one of the most requested features for Amiga browsers has been RealAudio.

Despite the advantages of MP3 audio, many more sites use the proprietary RealAudio format to provide

live, streamed audio. The copyright owners have always refused to allow an Amiga port of this format, but now there is one.



While there has been no definitive statement to the legality of this yet, the one thing it does prove is that the Amiga is capable of dealing with RealAudio. Currently only 14.4K audio streams are supported, and not the newer 25.6K version, although it is a start.

Neil Reinhardt





# Surf of the Month

Neil "I hate the phrase Net-Surfing" Bothwick goes err... surfing the Net once again.

## Finding people

Have you ever needed to find an email address for someone? There are several sites on the Internet offering a sort of "Internet email directory" service. One of the most comprehensive is WhoWhere. Not only does it cover email addresses, but also home pages by category and even address and phone numbers for the US. Another site worth investigating is the Internet Address Finder.



## Web translations

Struggling with tedious and useful sites for a little longer. Alta Vista provides more than just search engine facilities. This site translates text between several languages. You can either type the text into a text box, or give it the URL of a page to be translated. It should be simple enough to create a menu for any browser so you can automatically translate any page you come across in one of the supported languages. Currently it supports translation



between English, French, German, Portuguese and Spanish.

## Quake

Looking forward to the imminent release of Quake? Planet Quake is one of the places for Quake news. If you don't want to look like a total newbie then have a look here for the latest information on Quake and QuakeWorld. It won't stop you getting blasted to bits when you meet experienced Quake players, but at least you won't die ignorant.)



## Web cameras

There should be a copy of WebTV on this month's CD, so where are all these WebCams you can look at? WebCam TV is a comprehensive set of links to a large number of WebCams. Using an interface that looks like a TV remote control, you can browse through the sites before deciding whether one is worth adding to your WebTV address list.

## Learning JavaScript

We should very shortly have at least two browsers supporting JavaScript,



so a lot of people will want to know how they can use it to improve their web pages.

There are several useful sources of info. The first place to look is Netscape's own JavaScript manual, since they wrote it in the first place. The link in the box is for version 1.1, but this links to the 1.2 manual if you want more information. There are many other sites with information and resources. One such is by Paul Kolenchwar, author of HTML, Heaven, and After: Internet tests.

His site contains commented examples, with source code, that you can cut and paste into your own pages. Other sites, such as those by Tim Wallace and WebTeacher have links to download the entire tutorial as a single archive, for browsing and reference offline. Another useful site is the "Banks area". This contains links to a whole range of web resources, buttons, backgrounds, sounds, scripts and much more.

## Books

If you want to learn in depth, you can't beat a good printed book for tutorials and reference. There are several good bookshops online now, with a wide selection, search facilities and online ordering. You may see better prices in the US based bookshops, but do allow for possible shipping, duty and VAT charges, along with the longer delivery times.

## And finally...

... as they always say on the news before the final, light-hearted story, so here's ours. Home pages about pet cats aren't exactly novel, but this is different. Anyone wanting to tell their train cat must look at this page. Can anyone do better? ■

Neil Bothwick

## URLs

### WhoWhere

<http://www.whowhere.com>

### Internet Address Finder

<http://www.iaf.net>

### Alta Vista Translations

<http://hotwords.altavista.digital.com/mcgi-bin/translate/>

### Planet Quake

<http://www.planetquake.com>

### ClickMoo

<http://home.ican.net/~clickmoo/cats/>

### WebCam TV

<http://www.access.gated.com/webcamtv/index.html>

### Netscape JavaScript Manual

<http://www.netscape.com/jengim/called3/01main.htm#javascript>  
Paul Kolenchwar's JavaScript pages

<http://www.dcs.slipstream.org/js/script.html>

### Timothy's JavaScript Examples

<http://www.sasol.com/people/timothy/index.htm>

### Web Page Authoring Resources

<http://dunlop.spl.net/~dunlop/JavascriptfortheTotalNon-Programmer>  
<http://www.webteacher.com/javascript.htm>

### The Internet Book Shop

<http://www.bookshop.co.uk>

### Blackwell's Online Bookshop

<http://www.blackwell.co.uk/>

### Book Stocks

<http://www.books.com>

### Watch the Cat

<http://www.sainlog.com/watchcat>



# Wired World

**Mat Bettinson, that Net surfing type geezer takes a dip into the glorious world of the 'proxy'.**

**W**hile taking a break from the HTML tutorial to look at a subject which I've received plenty of email about - connecting the Amiga up to a PC so it can share an Internet connection.

Obviously some of you reading will understand the pros and cons of the whole share-ming-ship as desktops. The bulk of the matter is that in an ideal world, we'd plug the PC off the Amiga internet connection, especially since Windows has its highly security flaws!

Unfortunately that's not real mechanism to do this, and there is a wealth of exceedingly good software on the PC to either do it or to implement this task. The software I need is called a 'proxy' which acts as a go-between from one computer and the Internet. In fact, because of the nature of Internet services, no-one's going to do anything what you want to do, so we need one of these PC-based alternatives to do all that's required.

So this month's Wired World has good news and bad news. The bad

news is that we're going to have to talk about configuring software on the PC, something which you really don't expect to see in *COMMS* Amiga but it's just in a good position. The good news is that the Amiga has a superb TCP/IP stack in the form of Mosaic making the whole process actually straightforward as the rest of the day, actually better than another PC in the same position.

There's quite a few clicks and taps to this process but we'll provide the basic mechanism for getting it working and some background information to understand what's really going on. This background information should be a good help once more if you don't want to let your Amiga go to a PC.

## Conventional proxies

You may be familiar with Web proxies since we've covered this in the distant past. In *Wired World* and it's common to use a third party or your Internet provider to gain performance. By using our browser's configuration options, a proxy server can be entered. This means the

## Getting the PC and the Amiga networked

it's all very well working out how to share the Internet connection but before any of this can happen, we need a network between the Amiga and the PC. The easiest way to do this is via Ethernet. Network cards on the PC cost only a few pounds and are very easy to set up, but on the Amiga they are rather more expensive of course. One can opt for a Zorro based Amiga (Bittensor) or Hybris card (Hybris systems), or a Cheap/Clunk PCMCIA based unit with the PCMCIA Ethernet drivers - also found on our CD.

It is theoretically possible to network an Amiga and PC via a modem/line link. The Amiga side of this is extremely easy as it's just another interface type to Mosaic and it has a built-in serial driver anyway. The PC side is more problematic as you'll have to configure it as a dial-up PPP device, and of course, there can only be one dialled up at a time in typical Windows about slowness so that plan won't work. I'd be extremely interested in finding out if there are any cheap and easy ways to parallel/serial link a PC and Amiga for this kind of task. If anyone knows, please drop me a line.

As a general guide to Ethernet connecting the Amiga and PC, follow this little guide and drive guide: make your dialup adapter 192.0.0.1 on the PC, set the network to 192.0.0.0. You should already have the TCP/IP protocol bound to the dial-up adapter and the Ethernet card, so make sure it is. To modify this setting, go to the properties of the TCP/IP bound to the Ethernet in your network control panel on the PC. On Mosaic, set the interface type to BMM-8 Ethernet, insert the driver for your Ethernet card in the device box. Set IP type to static and enter 192.0.0.2. Enter network of static and 192.0.0.0. Gateway type as static and 192.0.0.1 (what you set the PC to). You should just be able to hit 'Online' and that's it. Test the connection by going to the shell and typing 'MosaicIP 192.0.0.1' which should give you a ping report to the PC if it all is well.



Many browsers have an interface which is to stop it from reaching our Web access via 192.0.0.1. In fact you can also disable this from the 192.0.0.1 properties with the help of the settings.

browser will no longer attempt to connect directly to the Internet to fetch a web page. Instead it will signal a request for the site which always requires to the proxy server, which will send it to us. The upshot of this is that proxy server will have a much better idea of where than all the Internet's Web sites and DNS.

thoughtfully require something so if we fetch a page it'll send the graphics with quality. The PC software will look at later can be used as a Web proxy at this very time.

Unfortunately there's a lot of of web surfing such as FTP will also be a proxy problem with a different protocol-based. Some FTP clients with FTP proxy support. It's not this on the ground, and FTP is the only one I'm aware of available from the

Amiga or the CD of course. Then there's the matter of fetching mail for which no standard proxy system exists and so on.

In this case, we're either out of luck and must use the PC as a proxy for those tasks if we use mapped ports. This requires more explanation. An actual TCP/IP Internet connection needs five pieces of information. It needs the IP address and port number. The IP address is the 'hosted' kind of address for whichever machine present on the network that has the port number mapped with the type of service which we want to use.

So we want to make an FTP connection to a site. First of all we have an address: ftp.computers.com or ftp.computers.com



▲ The WinGate 2.1 page, in most, repeats what you will also see in the help files it does on the PC.



▲ Ticking in Internet connectivity in WinGate is a must.

able to connect to that list of IP or your TORPIP stack will ask whatever domain name servers or DNS servers you have, what the real address is for [www.wingate.co.uk](http://www.wingate.co.uk), and they'll return the number we need. Then the TORPIP stack will attempt to connect to that IP address on port 21 which is reserved for the FTP protocol. Complicated but we are beginning to get there.

## Pull your SOCKS up

Fortunately Miami takes the hard work out of all this because there is an underlying protocol which can be used for all TCP transactions to pump them through a proxy machine. Now if we can run a SOCKS server on the PC, all we need to do is run Miami on the Armita and this glad client lot of software will transparently send requests to the SOCKS daemon so we don't need to change a thing on the Armita Internet clients.

Good! Good! Done right it is. The 2.1 beta is a new version of Miami to get this working which you'll find on the cover CD or on the author's home page at: <http://www.morling-lab.com>. The bottom option in the bar on the left of Miami's GUI is 'Socks', click on that page and you'll see an 'Enable SOCKS' tick box. Tick



▲ All we need to do is run SOCKS on our port on the PC IP address.



▲ Here's the Armita on the PC showing all of the list servers (just) listed from the dialog.

that, then go to the IP address of the PC in the Default SOCKS server box and we're made to go!

## WinGate 2.1

Next we arrive in the dreaded PC software and the best option here is a package called WinGate. Only the

2.1 beta version actually works with Miami SOCKS, so it's vital that you obtain this version. Once again it can be found on the CD called [www.wingate.co.uk](http://www.wingate.co.uk) in the root of the CD.

You can also get it from <http://www.beehive.com/wingate21> which also has a lot of documentation which will help out if you face some problems. Just run this on the PC to install. It'll ask basic questions during the installation procedure which you should know the answers to, but don't worry too much if you don't. Without a license code, WinGate is limited to working with a single client (your Armita) but this should be fine for you.

The PC is a slightly devoid of fancy software, so if you need more than that, you're going to have to get the right one. I'm afraid I want

the Start WinGate Engine into the Startup folder and it'll be running every time the PC starts, but thankfully it won't bother you with dialogs in the like as I mentioned it.

Open the start menu, run Gatekeeper. It'll ask you to log on, don't enter a password and you'll be given the option to set one up. Gatekeeper allows you to modify the WinGate engine and it's just a host and to that, which can actually be run from other PCs on the network, hence the login business.

Thankfully for WinGate 2.1, it will install the SOCKS protocol as standard presuming you left all those checkboxes alone when it was installed. You can see the services WinGate is running by clicking the services icon on the right hand list. Hopefully we won't need to modify these too much but you can be clicking on them and selecting properties via the standard Windows method.

One important thing to look at is that WinGate defaults to be quite a pliable web cache as well as a proxy and you may not desire this effect to save hard drive space on the PC. If that's not it, double click on the Caching icon and turn the two top checkboxes off and hit apply. After any change here, it's vital to select save changes from the Gatekeeper file menu.

With this all done, the WinGate engine running, and Miami fixed up to use the uprooted Armita, you should be able to connect to the Internet as normal from the PC, then run an Internet application on the Armita. Leave Gatekeeper open and you'll see a status display of the SOCKS internals in action. Mine it's not necessary to configure's proxy in your Armita Web browser if you use that method, that's only required if you're not using SOCKS or if this fails for whatever reason.

Also, FTP and standard shell protocols as gopher and those should all work, as should email. There seems to be some issues with IRC clients however and I'm yet to find a solution. One can either get rid of SOCKS and connect directly to the PC with the client (the WinGate installer asked you for an IRC server already, if you connect to your PC, you'll connect to this server or use a client on the PC until this matter is resolved).

Once again, if there's anything you'd like to see in *Week World*, drop me an email... or don't, one of you bother going to my inbound mail anyway. ■ **Mal Britten**  
[mibrit@compuserve.com](mailto:mibrit@compuserve.com)

# Scala Tutorial

## PART 2

In the second part of this tutorial John Kennedy takes a look at keeping sounds and events synchronised, the secret key to success with Scala.

**S**ound is important for any Scala project. It adds depth and makes a presentation look more professional. On an almost subliminal level it makes an interactive program considerably easier to use, by adding all important feedback. Scala is geared up when it comes to sound, and will happily replay sound samples to the event(s), MOD files (which contain tunes) and it's even possible to play CD audio, although we'll touch on that later.

It's vital that the sounds are triggered at the desired time. In other words, they must be synchronised. This month we'll look at how you can make sure your visuals and sound effects happen when they are supposed to happen.

As you know by now, a Scala project consists of a collection of pages. Each page can contain text, animations and other events, and each page is displayed in sequence. Your presentation proceeds as Scala moves from one page to another. When you first start a Scala project, the default action is to wait for the mouse button to be pressed. You can see this in the detail bar which appears when you create a new page:



▲ Wait! Scala waits (unless it has or wants that time to control how long it's displayed).

Until this Pause event happens (that is, either the mouse is clicked or the timer expires), the first page won't move on. Scala will wait forever, and obviously this limits the usefulness of your projects. Yes, of course there are times when you want the

Pause setting to be permanently waiting for a mouse click – for example, if your first page is a menu screen consisting of different options for your users to select, then you will not want the menu to vanish within a few seconds. The page will effectively remain locked. Scala moves onto the next page only when the user clicks on a button, and it is this event which forces the jump to a new location.

However, if you are creating a slideshow or a presentation, then you'll want Scala to move on after a few seconds; all by itself. To achieve this, you only need to click on the Pause setting and bring up the requester as shown below:



▲ Lifting the pause delay by clicking on the pause setting from the main editing window.

Now you have several options. You can stick to the wait-for-mouse-click timing, or select a number of seconds and frames (each of which is 1/28 of a second) for the page to be displayed.

The setting underneath defines what happens after this time: Scala can move onto the next page in the sequence, or jump to a specific location. It can also exit the script, or return to the location of a previous sample. If you click on the Record Timing button you can specify the delay time by watching the page and then pressing 'Return' when you gauge enough time has passed. (It's escape to return to the menu.)

Using this technique you can make sure your Scala script moves along with the right kind of pace, and if you want, never takes up totally waiting for someone to come along and start clicking. Going back to the menu example: if no selection is made within five minutes, the

script can be made to move onto another set of pages – an 'escape' mode for example.

### Simple sync

The simplest example of synchronising an event with sound is to create a sound effect when an on-screen button is pressed, or area of the screen clicked on. This is such a fundamental task that Scala makes it particularly easy to set up the sound sample to be triggered. In fact, there are two possible sounds:

1. A sound which is triggered whenever the mouse pointer is moved over a button or other interactive area.
2. A sound which is triggered when the button or the area is actually selected.

The first sound event is called a Mark sound, and the second one is a Select sound.

You can define both by clicking on the System button on the main editing page, and then clicking on the Configuration button until the Scale button option appears.



▲ From the System menu you can enter the sound effects into the menu area.

Click on the Mark Sound button, and you will bring up this requester.

You can then alter the sound event to Play, and then click and select the name of the sample that you require.

This sound sample is a standard Amiga PP sound file, and you can therefore use any sound, even ones you sampled yourself.



▲ When the Play entry is triggered the sound sample. You can adjust the volume and select from the list.

The sound requester has a few surprises, including the ability to actually edit the sound sample or directly make use of a sound sampling hardware to grab new sounds.



▲ Click on Edit, and we'll discover that Scala has a built-in sample editor. I never knew that was in Scala!

### Sound advice

There are other ways to achieve the same result of course: if you select different sound samples to occur depending on which button is selected, you can trigger the sound from the new page. Each button will lead to a different page, and so a different sample can be played.

Adding a sound event to a page is easy: from the main editing window click on the Sound button, and the same sound requester opens.



▲ Click on still a sound event for a page, not just sound samples. See this file too!

In addition to Play – you can also use the Stop sound event to instant stop a sound playing. Select a MOD file instead of a sample PP file, and you can control fade in/out settings, as well as alter volume and pan. Scala's control of sound is extraordinary, and it'll take a while to learn all of the options on offer.

John Kennedy

## Top tips on sounds

Don't make your button-click sounds too overpowering. Loud or over-the-top sounds will soon become irritating. Use subtle "clicks" and "clicks" – after all, the whole idea is to maintain the illusion of using a real, mechanical switch.

In the same way that you try to create a uniform look to your pages, using certain fonts and images for certain functions, take care with the sounds.

Remember to be consistent: use the same or similar sounds for all the positive actions made by the user. This forms "feedback", helping the user to interact with your program.

Try making your own music videos. Scale can replay animations very smoothly, and can quickly change from one to another. By creating your own images and animations, and syncing them to the audio playback, you can create very professional results.

Use the real-time setting to adjust the timing for your pages. Start the MCO file playing, and you can control when subsequent pages pop up by tapping on the keyboard.

Scale is perfect for making cartoons: draw and animate your cartoon characters in a program such as Personal Paint. Split the animation into sections if necessary. Now use Scale's sound replay facility to sync sounds to actions, providing a complete soundtrack for your animation. Record it to video for best results.

## Example - Adding music to a slideshow

### Step 1.

Create your slideshow by loading your images as backdrops to pages. The number of pages in your program is therefore the number of pictures. Create an extra page as your title, and place it at the top of the script so it is executed first. Put some text here to describe the pictures.

### Step 2.

For this title page, click on the Sound element. The sound requester will pop up, and you should click on the Load Sound button. Use the file requester to track down the MIDI tune you want to use in your backing sound track.

### Step 3.

Adjust the Fade in setting. This won't suit all tunes, but when used carefully the fading in is a classy effect. This is especially the case if you fade in the title picture at the same time.

### Step 4.

The tune will keep playing until you tell it to stop, depending on how many repeats you set using the Loop option. Go to the last page in the slideshow, and enter a Stop sound event. Again, use the Fade out option to avoid cutting the music off abruptly.



1.



2.



3.



4.



# Sound Lab

**Sound Lab takes a look at what the Internet has to offer curious Amiga audio fans and musicians.**

**T**here is a wealth of resources on the Internet for musicians and audio fanatics. This month we explore some of the best and more interesting sites throughout the Web. Whether you are looking for detailed information on the origins of synthesizers or just want to find some cool sounds to compose or experiment with, it is all out there somewhere.

## Origins of electronic music

Do you know when electronic music originated? Would you believe that it all started over one hundred years ago? The origins of electronic music can be traced back to the work of Heinrich Ludwig Helmholtz via Helmholtz ... a name as long as the history of electronic music itself. It was Helmholtz (1821-1894) who, through his research on electromagnetically vibrating discs and resonating spheres, did some of the first work using tones to create complex natural sounds.

Apparently, one of the earliest electronic musical instruments was accidentally discovered as a result of research in telephone technology. Elsie Gray, who arrived at the patent office one hour after Alexander



▲ The Helmholtz Telegraph (1858)

Telegraph (1860-present). This site is a fantastic source of information about the technologies and instruments, people and accidents that made this music what it has become today.

[http://www.soundsite.com/100\\_years/](http://www.soundsite.com/100_years/)

## Kraftwerk

Moving on to 1968 we come to the training of the founders of modern electronic music, Kraftwerk. Florian Schneider-Esleben and Ralf Hutter met at the Kunstakademie Academy of Art in Remscheid, near Düsseldorf, Germany. Later they both went on to be classically trained at the Düsseldorf Conservatory. They formed a group called Organisation whose early music was a mixture of sounds, feedback and rhythm. In 1970, the two went on to create the Klingkling studio and Kraftwerk was born. It was their music that began the evolution of house, techno and industrial music, as well as influencing many other bands and styles of music. Be sure to visit the official Kraftwerk website at: <http://www.kraftwerk.com/>. It does not contain much, but it is definitely Kraftwerk.

For more detailed Kraftwerk's historical information be sure to visit the Kraftwerk's. The Early Years site, at: <http://www.geocities.com/SunsetBrg/1886/>

## Music machines

One of the largest and most comprehensive resources for information about electronic musical instruments is the Music Machines Web site.

<http://www.hyperreal.org/music/machines/>

There is a lot more here than it appears and it is definitely worth spending some time looking around. The Wednesday's Favourite Pages and the animated Winking Suggests



▲ Buchla

area can be very helpful.

The site is extensively cross-referenced, so you can get to some information in several different ways. In particular, the Categories section is one of the easier ways to find the information you are looking for.

<http://www.hyperreal.org/music/machines/categories/>

From there, you can get to the Edit sections which contain information about Do-It-Yourself projects, including: schematics, part sources and other details on building and repairing electronic instruments. The Manufacturers link will take you to a selection list of equipment manufacturers. From there, you can choose a manufacturer and then select a particular device.

Each device section contains various information, including: patch/sound data, pictures, spline documentation, specifications and more. If you are researching to buy a particular device, this is the first place you should look. For more information, follow the Links link which takes you to lists of other related sites and official manufacturer sites.

You might also want to follow the PriceLists link to see the New and Used Gear Price Lists. This will give you an idea of the current market price for many devices. If you follow the Samples link, you will find links to downloadable sounds from more than 20 electronic instruments, including: Art Optyssey, Linn LinDrum, Moog Minimoog, Roland TR drum machines and many more. In the SoundLab/Sounds directory of the CDRom, you will find some sample sound files from the Music Machines site. There is a lot more going on here than it seems.

This site has it all and more... you can even email virtual synth postcards to your friends.

<http://www.hyperreal.org/music/machines/sounds/>

I cannot say enough good things about this site. It is tremendously well done and



▲ The Musical Telegraph

Grayson Bell to register a patent for the first telephone, discovered that he could control sound through a self-vibrating electromagnetic circuit and in doing so invented the single note oscillator. Gray's first instrument, the Musical Telegraph, could play notes over a two octave range and transmitted oscillations made by steel reeds over a telephone line using electromagnets.

100 Years of Electronic Music - charts the history of electronic music, from Early Experiments (1870-1915), through the Vacuum Tube Era (1915-1960), Integrated Circuits (1960-1980) up to current day Digital



stress regarding its better meet your needs.

## Synth zone

The Synth Zone is a large resource of links to sites related to MIDI, electronic instruments, synth patches, music magazines, drum-machine programming, music theory and lessons, newsgroups and much more. <http://www.synthzone.com/>

## Sounds, sounds &... more sounds

If you are looking for sounds, you will not have to look very hard. They are everywhere.

## Music Machines



▲ Music Machines

We have included some sounds in the SoundLabSounds directory of the CD-ROM that were found on the sites mentioned here, but this is just a sampling from the hundreds of thousands that are available.

Probably the largest and most extensive site on the Web, is Earth Station 1. This site contains many thousands of sounds in several categories, including: television, movie, festival, cartoons, radio, space, war, and more.

<http://earthstation1.simplenet.com/home-page.html>

The WAV Place is another good sound resource, although its organization can be a bit confusing. It contains many sounds along with short descriptions, including three categories: romance, home, people, commercials, sports, holidays and more. If you are looking for some good sounds to enhance your Workbooks, check out the Computer Voice and Sounds section.

<http://www.wavplace.com/main.htm>  
Sound America claims to have over 22,000 sounds on-line. These sounds are organized into nine categories: cartoons, comedy,

some light on the problem. Apparently, these are not WAV files at all, but are actually MP3 audio files with a WAV header added on. PlayIt does not know how to handle these files, but Thomas tells me that



▲ The WAV Place

the next version of MP3GAT it will be able to play them directly.

I tried the various MP3GAT audio players currently available, and was only able to get MP3GAT to play these disguised WAV files as is. <http://www.soundamerica.com/>

If you are after MP3GAT audio files, The MP3GAT Repository is one of the largest libraries on-line.

<http://members.aol.com/repository/index.html>

If these sites do not have everything you are looking for, the Cool Sounds site contains links to many more sound sites. Here you can find your way to sounds of Star Trek, Star Wars, Beavis and Butt-head, Miley Pythion and Seinfeld. Also, sentimental, funny, presidential, and much much more. <http://cool-sound.simplenet.com/index.html>



▲ Sound America

## RealAudio

Amigaos have been able to play 'WAV' MP3 and other common audio formats for a long time, but now more sites are adding RealAudio sounds. Until recently, Amigaos could not listen to them, but that has now improved. RA is a RealAudio player with support for 14.4 Kbps files.

Higher quality 28.8Kbps files will not work, the program is very quick and on a 68030 or 286MHz will play back in near real time. Faster machines should have no problem achieving full speed. The program supports streaming audio, for use with Internet radio and similar RealAudio sites, but unfortunately this is not currently supported by Amiga browsers. However, an included sample AIXOS script will let you use RA with RealAudio streams. RA requires several steps and a sound player capable of playing 16-bit audio files. PlayIt and ARI can be used for this purpose.

In particular, the ARI AUDIOC device will allow you to easily pipe the output of RA directly to your sound card or internal audio for immediate play back. You can find out more details about using the RealAudio play-

er by visiting its support site.

<http://www.amiga.com/~stream/RA.html>

You can find the RealAudio player and other sound players discussed here in the SoundLabPlayers directory on the CD-ROM.

## MIDI files

If MIDI song files are what you are after, MIDI File Central is the place to go to find them. The files are divided into four main categories: themes, collections, artist/group and the mixed bag.

Each is then sub-divided. You can find everything from Star Trek to Disney, Country to Classical, and Adobe to Z200. In the SoundLabMIDI directory of the CD-ROM, you will find some sample MIDI song files from this site. <http://linebenton.simplenet.com/>

## Soundbite

If you want to find out more about the why sound works or about current applications of it, visit the online Journal of Sound Theory. Philosophy of Sound and Sound Art at the Soundbite website. Among the essays that this site contains are: Einstein and Carillon Sound, Dreams of the 'Voice' - How Cosmology to Telephony, and Extracts from Ideology for Listening.

There is also a long and detailed list of links to sound artists, artworks, projects, journals, organizations and other related sites.

<http://www.spsa.org.au/RA/soundbite/>

## Magazines online

You can find a tremendous resource of information from Electronic Musician's Article Archives. There you can enter in a search string and be presented with a listing of relevant articles from the magazine's many years of back issues. These articles are all available online for you to read. <http://www.e-musician.com/index.html>

Unfortunately, there is no way to get a listing of all the articles available, but if you browse on over to the young monkey studios site you can find a collection of Magazine indexes in the WWW News section, which includes a fully categorized index of Electronic Musician articles and reviews (1988 - Current) as well as many other magazines. There is also an Audio Technical information section containing other miscellaneous resources.

In the Background section, you will find a small museum of custom and commercial music equipment.

<http://www.youngmonkey.com/>

## Website Story

If you still cannot find what you are looking for, be sure to visit Website Story's World 1000 site. They have a Top 1000 Music Sites listing that is sure to get you headed in the right direction.

<http://www.website-story.com/www/world1000.htm>

as.html ■

Thomas Thorne



▲ Intuition

movies, television shows, sports, sound effects, war of the worlds, miscellaneous and themes.

I had problems getting WAV files from Sound America to play using PlayIt. Thomas Wierpel, author of PlayIt, shed









# Q&A

Don't worry how complicated your technical problem is, challenge our panel of experts and they'll try to fathom it out. Please don't forget to provide us with as much detail on your systems and problems as possible, to help us solve things for you.

## Logos

### Mysteries and meanings...



**Solutions to those everyday troubles with your Workbench.**



**If you need help getting more from your Amiga, just ask!**



**All your Internet and general online problems swiftly solved.**



**Trouble making your Amiga sing? We've got the answers here.**



**Technical matters beyond the scope of playpens and plug-ins.**



**Answers to queries on particular pieces of software.**



**General queries which just don't seem to fit in anywhere else.**



**Specific help with CD-ROM solutions and drive problems.**



**Problems with art and design? Help and advice is at hand.**



**Printers, modems, we'll solve your peripheral blues for you.**

## RAM basics



I am completely new to the world of computers, and having just bought an Amiga 1200 second hand I would like to get started on learning more about the machine and to play games etc on it.

I believe that my 1200 has a capacity of 2Mb of RAM. Can you inform me if I can increase this RAM capacity, either by installing something in the machine or by adding an extra piece of hardware?

I am sorry to ask you this very basic question, but without any help I cannot help myself. I received no manuals about my computer, so if you or any of our readers can help, I would be very grateful.

**E. Miskoon, Sainsborough.**

Yes you can. Flip your computer over and on the bottom you will see a flap which can be removed. Under this is a space for a RAM board or an accelerator. If you look at the edge of the hole toward the centre of the case you will see the edge connector for such a board to be added.

A RAM board is exactly what it says. They usually come with RAM fitted, up to 8Mb in total. Alternatively an accelerator card allows more memory to be added and includes a chip which makes your computer go faster. The cheaper accelerators are little more expensive than RAM cards, and the performance boost is well worthwhile, but like all things in life, the more you want the more you have to pay.

## Serious business



I will be starting up my own business in the next couple of months, and I would like some help in using my Amiga to the full in this business. I have an Amiga 1200-030 22Mb and a PC. I will be upgrading

my Amiga into a tower, and try and get a network card so I can connect the two up. Basically this is the kind of thing I was thinking about doing: Stick the Amiga into either an Infinity or Amiga tower, get an 'old' card, graphics card, upgrade the disk drive to 1.44Mb, get 1-2 Gb hard disk, CD-ROM and some kind of printer switch box, because there will be more than one printer attached to the Amiga.

The software I'm not sure about, but I really want to get the best if possible. The main use for the Amiga will be DTP graphics, printing and scanning. I really want to use my Amiga, because I believe in it, and it's more than capable of doing the job. I don't want to fall into the trap of using a PC just because society says so. I know the Amiga has a handful of really great software, the top titles which are packed with features, rather than PC - not to say the PC isn't good though.

So basically I want your help, because to be quite honest there is

no one else, unless I want to take the advice from the shops, and end up buying another PC...

**Michael John Davis, Daindale**

Well Mike with a rather general question like that I hope you are prepared for a rather general answer, but here goes.

On the hardware front, you look like you've got a good idea of what you are after, and it sounds about right to us. I would say that it is worth taking a look at this month's review of the Power Tower, and consider the possibility of the Aten Business, which we are hoping to have in for review next month. This hardware will not only give you a graphics card, but has ethernet and SCSI cards very cheaply available too. We'll have to see it before we recommend it though, so keep your eyes open. Before you ask - yes, you'll need SCSI. Scanners may be a bit cheaper in parallel, but the speed loss is a real pain.



▲ Daindale like, a superb DTP package.

You don't mention memory, but for DTP/graphics you should be looking at a minimum of 30MB. The price of memory these days is low enough that you shouldn't think of going lower. If you can keep your costs down, then go for a T3 monitor, they are almost indispensable for layout and graphics.

Software-wise, look out for our review of the Amiga leading DTP package PageStream 3.2 coming soon. ImageFX 2.0 is an absolute must have - contact Wilson Developments on: +44 (0)195 999 1606 to get your hands on the Amiga's number 1 image processing and scanning software.

DrawItLikeLife is an excellent structure drawing package, available from LRI Publishing on: (0)908 370 336. While you are speaking to them, you better get them to send you the latest version of Totalprint - version 8 is due out around now - to get the best output from your printers. In case you feel a desperate need for being more compatible with the world outside, you can run Quark via Facsim, the Mac emulator. Old versions of Quark can be bought for very little, and Fusion can be bought from Bittersoft: +44 (0)185 351446.

They will also sell you Art Effect, the photoshop like drawing/image-processing package. Alternatively try and get your hands on the superb but out of print Photopaint 2. Last time we heard, White Knight: +44 (0)1823 921261 had a few copies, and might be persuaded to do you a nice deal on it if you pick up some of your other gear from them.

## Digital sampling?



I've just bought a state of the art (well, for this week anyway!) stereo system. I was pretty impressed with a little jack on the rear labelled CD Digital D/I. Surely I can bypass my sound sampler now and plug this signal straight into my Amiga?

Please tell me it is possible and if I need a little add on to get it working. Maybe you could include this as your next D/I project?

M. Hayes, Lincashire.

The digital out is a CD audio bit-stream, usually used for connection to an external digital to analog converter or a recording device with digital I/O, such as most DAT or Minidisk recorders. Depending on the hardware you have it will

## Tech Tip: Tower solution



The joys of tower solutions have been thoroughly explored by this magazine and the removal of the console case can be a very liberating experience for our favourite machines.

There do however remain a few niggles with a tower system. For a start there is the loss of the Led. It is possible to attach the tower Led to the Amiga PCB (see CU Amiga May 1987, page 27) but this is quite fiddly and I suspect that most people will not bother. And then there is the less tangible loss of the Amiga 'look'. The cases are either bland and featureless, or (bizarre of course) marked as PC's.

These niggles are important because Amiga owners are perfectionists. Anybody who uses one and reads CU Amiga does so because they do not 'put up' with things they know can be better. Fear not, because help is at hand. This handy trick will solve both of these problems in a very simple way. It involves no complex work and best of all, only uses things that you would otherwise throw away.

You will need:

- 1) A vacant 5.25" drive bay
- 2) A blank 5.25" drive bay cover.
- 3) The PCB from your original console case with the LED and wires still attached.
- 4) Your original console case.
- 5) And a hacksaw, a small drill, a pencil, sandpaper and glue.

What are we going to do?

We are going to remove the Amiga logo and Led from the console case and mount them in the drive bay. Simple enough?

First place the face of the drive bay cover over the LED holes and

the logo and draw around it. Make sure that it is level and try to get the edge as near to letter 'A' as possible because the PCB needs space to the right of the LED holes. When you are happy with the area you've chosen, cut it out with the hacksaw and smooth the edges with sandpaper. Do take time to check the template mark because you've only one case to cut up. Now you can reattach the PCB. Before doing this, you may like to put something in

between the LED to reduce the amount of light bleeding between them. At this point you might be flustered. Depending on the design of your tower and the accuracy of your cutting, it may be possible to simply snap the plastic sliding into the drive bay or hold it in with a little glue. If this isn't possible then you will have a little work to do. Drill some holes in the front of the drive bay cover and until you're able to get the hacksaw blade in, then cut away the front so that the console and the clips are left. Then replace the front with the

plate you cut from the console case. If you've not already installed the LED, do so now to check there is enough space and finally check there is no problem with the drivebay cover being slide down in your tower design. When all these things are checked, glue the two pieces of plastic firmly together and then snap your new badge into place in your tower.

Glue in now that you have have an Amiga that does to speak its name. Finally plug the wires from the LED into the motherboard and they will work as normal.

If you're only interested in the logo, then this will fit nicely into the front of a 5.25" drive bay. If you do not have any spare bays, then you could just glue the logo on to your case, but this won't look as all neat which seems to defeat the whole object.





▲ The Jaz drive from Amiga.

either be a co-axial connection (internal wire, phone or BNC socket) or optical (small square slot for a fibre-optic cable). While in theory this fiberoptic could be read into a computer and directly sampled, it is unfortunately not a simple task.

As you have correctly pointed, sending the audio output of a CD player through the sampler means you are essentially converting a signal from digital to analog and then to digital again. There is however no hardware currently on the market to send the data into an Amiga. A DIY job would be feasible but tricky, especially for optical as it would require an opto-electrical connection, so don't hold your breath. CDMA sampling from a CD-ROM drive is the easier way to pursue your aim of direct digital sampling.

## VR Amiga?

I am wondering whether you, or any readers out there, can help me. I own an Amiga 1200, the optics are unimportant as they won't be the same in six months, it's looking for information about VR. I'm not selling VR Industries/Virtuality standard, it's just good old fashioned curiosity.

1. Where can I get a Master Powerglow? It was a device made for the Nintendo NES or SNES, is kind of bombast but thought, until revised more recently by a lot of VR enthusiasts. Unfortunately, the only place I have heard of it being sold is second hand shops in the US.
2. Do you know if anyone has ever released either a VR headset or shutter glasses for the Amiga?
3. There is one VR headset that I know of, the VFX-1, it was used for the PC and so such came with an

ISA controller board, which you fit in your PC and connect the headset to. Would it be possible to fit this board to an ISA slot on a 286/386? Obviously I would probably write a lot of code, for example device drivers and so forth to be able to use it in this way.

4. Do you know if there are any VR user groups in the country that I can turn to for help and advice? An Amiga specific one would be ideal.
5. Finally, am I barking mad?

I shall be eternally thankful of any help you or any reader can give me in my quest for affordable VR.

Karl Greenwag, Shetland Isles.

Shall I answer question 5 first? VR is an interesting hobby, and despite the image of NASA laboratories and Mill lab coats, is one you can actually pursue at home, but expect to put in a lot of work.

The first thing you should do is give Magpie a ring on +44 (0)1762 564860 and enter The Virtual Reality Homebrew Handbook, order code MCHB, £22.95 plus postage. This book is an up to date mine of information for the best budget VR buffer, with guides to important components available, commercial projects for DIY VR gear, and a good generalised intro to 3D graphics.

They also have The Virtual Reality Continuation Kit, order code AAKR, £24.95 which has a number of general projects to build, and its companion volume The Virtual Reality Programmers Kit, order code AAKR, price £22.95, although both these are a little out of date now and are rather PC specific.

If building your own gear doesn't take your fancy, then options

get a bit tricky. The Master Powerglow is now a much sought after rarity, but findable. Try advertising in the wanted section of Micro Man or PC Man magazines, all papers like Lust and Exchange and Man and on the internet. Of course if one of our readers has one to sell we will put them in contact with you.

The i-Glasses and the X-glasses were both Amiga compatible shutter glasses systems. They aren't exactly great and of course don't support motion tracking, but if you can find someone selling them second hand, they should be pretty cheap and Amiga software is already written. A pair of i-glasses recently sold via the internet for £40. As for the VFX-1, something like this would be the best solution, and ought to work fine in any Amiga equipped with active ISA slots. Check out the VFX-1 support page at: [www.caslib.co.uk.net/~bonds/rap/rl.htm](http://www.caslib.co.uk.net/~bonds/rap/rl.htm). The manufacturers website is at [www.fortv.com](http://www.fortv.com) or they can be phoned on: 081 716 427 8804. As you say, you'll have to write the driver software yourself. As for software check this months CUEB in the magazine drawer and you should find some useful little bits and pieces.

Well I hope that gets you started, but if you are soon going to need some specialised help, if you want to take this seriously, you're going to have to be on the internet, where you will find numerous websites and newsgroups relating to VR. Check out the sub-virtual-worlds and sub-virtual-worlds.aps newsgroups and various glasses.com. If anyone out there is trying the same thing and wants to get in touch, write in and we will forward your mail to Karl.

Remember Karl, if you get it up and working, then tell us about it, I am sure many readers would be interested.

## All that Jaz

I have an AT 41200, Microsoft tower and Zorro 2 board. Eystech 4 device, flytuned IDE, setup as C-master hard disk, 1x floppy CD rom, and 2x IDE Zip drive. Additionally I have a Blizzard 1200 + SCSI IV adapter with a drive and a 32bit drive respectively.

The problem is, I've just bought an internal SCSI Konigs-Jaz drive. It is the only drive on the chain and has a setting of 4. When I tried using the SCSI boards supplied software it

could not read the drive, I also tried to use the MicroMan supplied hard disk prepping and partitioning software using the 1200speed device driver (instead of the scsi device driver). It ran though the chain and I reached device 4 and then hung - just the software hung, the computer or disk ran fine.

This is killing me, I have a potential of 1GB more storage, and no way to access it! Help me.

Graham Mitchell

You seem to have the basic principle correct, but getting those things to work the first time can be rather fiddly, and it's all too easy to leave something out. First thing to do is check that you are giving all the correct information about the Jaz drive. I would recommend that you use HDMPing software for prepping your drive as it is a lot better than HD Toolbox. You can get this from the AmigaKit (<http://uk.amsinfo.net/AmiKit>) or from most PD libraries.

Give HDMPing the device name and unit number, by giving it the appropriate qualifiers from the shell. In your case this will mean typing:

```
hdmp -c 1200scsi.device -u 4
```

and you can take it from there. If this still doesn't seem to work then you probably have a serious problem. You shouldn't be getting a unit ID conflict when there is only one device on the chain, so check the cabling and make sure the device is properly terminated - there is a little recessed switch in the back of the drive which should be set to the 1 position.

## Standards?

First of all congratulations on a fantastic cover CD the fine magazine that's started isn't bad either. My set up consists of a bog standard A1200.

Just a few questions: 1. I recently purchased a 344MB 2.5 inch hard drive (15 heads, 40 sec/1, 975 mb for 655. But I cannot format the damn thing. The drive is a PC (Pointless Compression) drive and is second hand and I assume that it already contains a number of PC formatted partitions. Can you direct me towards a piece of software that can erase everything including all previous partitions, format, partition and mount the drive.

I have tried HD Toolbox but it only seems to want to put 128MB partitions on the drive and will not format



## How to write to Q&A

You can send your queries (or a good test tip if you have one) to Q&A, CU Amiga Magazine, 27-28 Millharbour, Isle of Dogs, London E14 9TE or preferably e-mail: [q+a@cu.amiga.co.uk](mailto:q+a@cu.amiga.co.uk). We can accept letters or text files on floppy disk. Please do not send an S.M.E.

**WE CANNOT RESPOND DIRECTLY TO QUERIES BY POST OR OVER THE PHONE OR E-MAIL, and cannot answer every Q&A we are sent. Sorry. We do appreciate that you may have a serious problem and until Amiga International re-opens a UK office you may have nowhere else to turn, but we get so many questions we simply don't have the time or resources to answer them all. We do our best to use letters in Q&A that answer most common problems, so even if your own question is not answered you may find an appropriate solution here.**

1. The drive does not show up on the boot options menu.
2. What is the difference between EDO RAM and standard SIMM RAM? Will EDO RAM (SIMMs) work with the 68010 5MB 40MB or 600 board which I am about to purchase?
3. Where can I get my hands on some of the old HW00004 games such as BATTLETECH and the ZONE games?
4. In the February '91 issue in *Benchmark* you printed a letter from a Gareth Mullin. I would just like to ask why he wanted to buy a copy of *Storm 2*? He programmed the game! Yours Hopefully,

## R Bishnough, Walsham.

1. Check the answer to Graham Mitchell (AM that Jaz!) for comments on HDPrep over HD tool-box, the same holds for you. In your case however you will not using it with *aculdevice* and unit number 0. Once HDPrep has located the drive, use the partitioning option to set the partition size(s) to 1mb, give the partition name(s) and then select the "write PCDF" option.

Your drive will now be recognised although it will still require formatting. You can use the stan-

dard shell formatting command for this, so open a shell and type format drive (partition name) name (an alias if different).

2. The EDO is actually a type of SIMM. SIMM means single inline memory module and refers to anything of that basic form factor. EDO differs from the more NP type commonly used on the Amiga in the way the memory is paced

from the various chips on the board. EDO addressing is more efficient and if used correctly can improve speed slightly. Although no commonly available accelerators are designed to use EDO, you can actually use EDO Simms as a direct replacement in pretty much every case.

Although we have not actually tried this in a Viper world and you

should ring the retailers to be sure, we would be surprised if there was a problem.

3. The leading record head or ring Active Media Software who seem good at hosting ageing games. Call them on: +44 (0)1623 487029.
4. Good question, I wondered that too. Maybe he just takes the notion of supporting Amiga software a bit further than most of us!

## A to Z



## Gasp, gorgeous John Kennedy's gets his gums round a gigantic gaggle of Q's, goodness gracious!

### Q is for...

#### Gadgets

Gadgets are the controls which the user can manipulate to pass information to programs. Simple push-button images are examples of gadgets, but so are scroll bars, rectangles with click-and-drag knobs and boxes into which you can enter text or numbers. The Amiga operating system creates and looks after the gadgets once the programmer has created the necessary data structures, and attached them to a suitable window.

#### Gaggle

The best peripheral you can get for programming. Not cheap, but makes the best espresso you are likely to taste.

#### Garnet

One of the sample fonts included with the Workbench. Not one of the best looking.

#### Gib

The keyboard file required to put various punctuation in the right place. If you can't get a pound sign, then you know the keyboard file isn't being used properly. Workbench should ask you which keyboard to use the very first time you use it, and this will add a line to the start sequence) to ensure that every time you boot up, your keys are sorted.

#### Gemini

A printer driver, designed to offer basic printing features on almost every printer. Useful as a last resort only as only very basic features are supported, and there is no graphics support.

#### Gemtek

A piece of external hardware.

Although it's possible to record the Amiga's video output onto video tape, it's not possible to mix the Amiga's output with output from another video source - such as a camcorder - without a genlock. The genlock alters the timing of the Amiga to match the second video signal, synchronising them together. Essential for adding subtitles, but remember that genlocks can only superimpose the Amiga's video on top of the live source, not the other way around.

#### Get

An AmigaDOS command used to retrieve the value of a local variable. Used in AmigaDOS scripts.

#### Getenv

An AmigaDOS command which is used to retrieve the value of an environmental variable. These are variables which are used by the operating system to store useful information - such as the version of Workbench and Kickstart currently in use.

#### Ghosting

When the operating system or a program wants to let the user know that a particular gadget is unavailable, they become "ghosted". Although they are still visible, they become greyish and inactive.

#### GIF

A file format used to store images with up to 256 colours. More common than it used to be, thanks to the World Wide Web, which uses GIF format extensively to store images alongside HTML files. Some people pronounce it "JIF" for some reason.

#### GPIIa

One of the best and best programs

for sending and receiving faxes on an Amiga, using a suitable modem.

#### GraphicDump

One of the AmigaDOS commands which few forget. It's actually quite smart: enter the command at the Shell and after ten seconds the foremost screen is sent to the printer. The printer settings must be configured from the standard Preferences settings. Use arguments Tiny, Small, Medium or Large to control the size of the image.

#### Graphics memory

Also known as Chip Memory, this is memory which the Amiga shares between the CPU bus, Motorola 68030 for example and the Custom Chips. It stores graphics and sound data.

#### GUI

Graphical User Interface - the Workbench as opposed to the Shell. When you open a directory by clicking on an icon, you are using the GUI.

#### Guru

When something has gone seriously wrong, the operating system shuts down the system by performing a "guru". This is a small window display which contains some information about the task which has caused the problem. Often showing the Guru Modification number can offer some clues about what has gone wrong.

For example, 00000002 means there has been a problem with the Gnu or Address bus. 00000005 means "division by zero", and 00000008 means "Line 1 emulator" which occurs when a system without an FPU executes an FPU only instruction.



# Backchat

Isn't it time you had your say on all things Amiga? Now's your chance. Jot down your rants or e-mail them to us at [backchat@cu-amiga.co.uk](mailto:backchat@cu-amiga.co.uk)



## Head rush

Many thanks for the innovative and bold step to release the entire TFX game on one CD and for encouraging DID to write it in the first place. From what I've read about the PC version of F32 by DID, the Amiga one is better in that it has actual campaigns. The CF-2000 game by DID is said to be excellent as well.

Anyway, there are a few problems with the version I've got from your CD cover disk. In fact it has got more bugs than Starship Troopers. (goes on to list a whole page of bugs which we'll quote you)

Basically the game should have been play tested a lot more than fixed and released. I know you were all impatient to have TFX available for the Amiga but I believe it was rushed and the result is a poorer game than it should be.

Iain Maynard, Manchester

Rushed you say? We first looked at

TFX in the May '93 issue of CU Amiga and it was released on the October '93 issue! It would have been nice to have fixed up all the bugs but unfortunately we didn't have that kind of the money avail-

**"I believe that I have discovered the face of the greatest holy man of all... Yep, Father Christmas is in my Workbench."**

able (at least not if you'd still expect to get it with the magazine and the rest of the CD for just £5.99. DID had shipped Amiga TFX indefinitely and this was the only way it was ever going to be released - wants and all, or not at all.

However, well above and beyond the call of duty, the Amiga version's main coder Charlie Wallace has since fixed up some of the problems and made new screenshots available from his own

Workbench Screen



A Free makes a regular appearance on this Workbench - a stolen state indeed

## web site

[www.gamfiles.com/~charlie\\_a/](http://www.gamfiles.com/~charlie_a/). You can also find these on this month's CD.

## Holy Workbench!

Hallelujah! Praise be! What with all those stories of Allah's face in tomato soup, Indian hippo statues drinking rolls and cleaning ladies finding the face of Jesus on a bath cloth... Well,

few new Backchats with icon transparency switched on.

Chris Andrews, via email

Watch out, it's Easter soon. If you get blood running out of the palms of your hands you might be onto something big.

## That's bad defending

I am writing to say how appalled and disgusted I was with the game Championship Manager 2. I expected Championship Men 2 to be an exciting, enjoyable and realistic. Instead I found myself so annoyed at the makers. This was meant to set the standards for all up and coming football management games. Instead it makes you wonder what the hell is going on.

I admit that the graphics are good, but the speed is so slow it's a waste. On the box it says 2Mb of RAM minimum. They got this wrong for a start. They should have made it at least 4Mb minimum, and with this you don't even get an HD install.

So they should sort themselves out and pass the 97-98 version. It is coming out, onto an Amiga com-

I can top that! I believe that I have discovered the face of the greatest holy man of all... Yep, Father Christmas is in my Workbench.

How's about that then? I've included a snapshot of my Workbench and the original can (which alone could never assemble anything).

To top that, the next day I received a call from my previous employer's offering me my old job back (the car was from me CV). What a Christmas present ah?

All I was doing was trying out a

## Letter of the month

Right here's something good I did to help Amiga.

A shop in Northwich which was selling Amiga stuff went bust, 9 weeks later a new owner took the shop over, but renamed the shop to PC Part X. This was bad news for the Amiga owners of South Yorkshire, until I worked in there...

I basically asked him for a job and told him exactly what I could offer him. Amiga support, I introduced him to Amiga and told him that there are still many owners of the systems out there. Amazingly he accepted and now I work there promoting Amiga's! And glad do I have some help to talk I managed to convince someone that an Amiga was running a F133 when it was only 65025. I've pulled people away from buying PC's to buying an Amiga. If all people want is to want prices, then the Amiga is a better option! We do a good pack

age. Second Hand Based A7300 £129.95, 80 Meg Internal (Fixed) Hard Drive £34.99, Canon SUC250 Printer, with Amiga Driver. £145.00 We stock it all together for £200.

People were going to buy PC's at £200, just to do some wordprocessing! We also sell brand new Amiga add ins, such as ROM expansions, accelerators, Tower systems, Half Tower Systems etc, and if anyone needs any technical assistance, then all they need to do is come to our shop, where you'll find the shelves full of Amiga games (however unfortunately not the newest titles)

So there you go, there a good start. Hopefully (and its difficult with a tight budget we'll be able to build up the Amiga side of the shop, and be selling Brand New Amiga.

Andrew Fitzgerald, 5 Rochdale

party who knows what they are doing. After all, at least an Amiga company progress for the Amiga. Even the back of the box says word based PC game. What's this going to say to all Amiga owners out there?

PS: Could you please print my address so I would like to know what other Amiga owners have to say on this subject. Thank you.

Michael McFarlane

7 Dunston Close, Bromley East, Lincoln, Lincs, LN1 2DT

We totally agree with you, in fact, we said pretty much the same thing in our review of the game. If you'll read that you could have saved yourself the cash, if not the disappointment. Fortunately most Amiga game developers are now well and truly turned into the current Amiga users and don't rely on a snapshot of 1992 for their outlook on the scene.

## Overpriced PowerUP?

I am a regular reader of your magazine and I've all your magazines from the CUEDS. I have a question about the PPC range of accelerators. Why are they so expensive? Do Amiga International think we are made of money? Obviously YES! I think Amiga International are trying to price the range of PPC accelerators out of most people's pockets. In the long run that is bad for the Amiga community. Why are they so expensive? Well I will NOT buy one until they go

down in price, but I need one NOW! How am I expected to write software when I can't get hold of the hardware? I hope you print this letter so I wish to air my views on the pricing of the PPC accelerators. Cheers for now.

Paul Morris, King's Lynn

Right then, let's get a few things straight here. The only PPC accelerators available at the moment are from phase 5, not Amiga International. Next, the first batch of Cyberstorm PPC cards are indeed expensive, but there's a reason: phase 5 have spent a lot of money developing the cards and now they need to recoup some of that in order to stay viable (to avoid going broke in other words). You'll see that's a common pattern with most technological developments. Once some of the costs have been made back from initial sales of the high end version, the product is then refined and more affordable variations follow. As we reported in last month's News section, the Billionard (A1206) PPC cards are soon to be available at much lower prices, although these have crept up a little since then. You'll be able to get your hands on an entry level PPC Billionard card for around £285, and about £390 for a very desirable model.

## Reject PC developers

Wishing various mags and other

**"Why would we want rejects from the PC game development world when we've got our own Amiga-specific developers knocking out games like *Quake*, *Forgotten Forever*, *On Escapes* and so on?"**

sources of info on the PC, would it not be fair to say that the majority of software houses are now writing for the PC are trying to keep to deadlines knowing that if they don't hit them they won't get the game published? Wouldn't they be far better off writing for the Amiga which does not have these same timelines and the user base is much more grateful for the work done?

Chris Jones, Sheffield

That doesn't sound like a good idea. Why would we want rejects from the PC game development world when we've got our own Amiga-specific developers knocking out games like *Quake*, *Forgotten Forever*, *On Escapes* and so on? The Amiga user base isn't a dumping ground desperate for any scraps thrown its way.

## Where's the CD?

I first would like to say that I really enjoy your magazine. I'd also like to enjoy your CDs, but of all the dealers within 500ms, I can find nothing but the floppy disk version.

I repeatedly ask (as your mag suggests), and they tell me that other customers ask for them too, and they'll stock into it. Also, they still don't ever seem to get the CD version in. If I give you their names, can you help?

Name not supplied

If you find it hard to get the magazine (in the UK) or the specific CD or disk edition, you can call Louise Russell at Frontline (the company which distributes CU Amiga) on 01753 585 161.

Otherwise you can ask your newsagent to specify the CD or disk edition from his wholesaler. Finally you could take out a subscription and get the magazine delivered to your door, usually about a week before it's in the shops.

## Have some RAM

I thought your Workbench 2000 article was first class. I spent a happy couple of days over Christmas installing various patches and hacks (one at a time as suggested). I now have a modern looking Workbench and more efficient operating system. I had to be careful not to run up too much rubbish, though.

Then I discovered Hibern[BN] the top rated program on Amiga. By installing this I recovered 250K of Fast RAM. So far it hasn't clashed with any of my other programs. I can heartily recommend this addition to the Workbench.

Dan Widdows, via email

## Postcard from Holland

You people are blessed in the UK with a thriving Amiga population and that's a bunch of excellent magazines, of which only one has sus-



▲ *Refugees in all it's glory.*

viewed unfortunately there is another one still going here actually - I'd like to hold the last (and only) magazine dated a few months ago. Furthermore have I never seen any Amiga computers on the shelves of any computer store for the last five years, while your problem is more of a lack of sales persons' knowledge.

I actually bought mine in a PC project at work in 1993, where the employees could buy a computer financed by the company and you could pay it back without interest in nice monthly terms.

Of course you could choose between an IBM PC, an IBM PC and an IBM PC. I asked if I could please buy an Amiga and I couldn't! But I had to buy it from the PC supplier and had no service or backup whatsoever since then. Don't worry, I am not trying to make any point, just saying there are worse places to be for an Amiga fan than England.

Another plus in buying in England with a credit card. By telephone or email, service is very good, polite staff on the phones and speedy and quick delivery. No hassle if something has to be sent back. I really never had any problems when dealing with an English company and I bought quite a few things since 1993.

No I am not an Anglophile (I spend my holidays in France) but you people in the UK don't know what we poor souls across the water are missing...

Tom Djapaterhuis, via email

## Fan-flippin'-tastic

Fantastic, that's what it is, Fantastic! What with Peter Taylor/David Thomas are doing deals all over the place, PPC finally classes as the real generation chip, Microsoft's legal probit... (Myrd/Dawson/Guadalupe... Fantastic Oh Yes...

Ha ha! fooled you! There are no bots!

David Post, David Post Enterprises

## Insane morn

As one of those insane morons, upgrading my A4000 at every turn, I felt I needed to respond to Shane's comments (Controversy of the Month, Backlash last issue) on the state of the Amiga. Now we could get into these old arguments about the efficiencies of the Amiga OS and the pig like hogging of system resources of Win95. Or the upgrade strategy around you get into when you are the proud owner of a PC.

**"No I am not an Anglophile (I spend my holidays in France) but you people in the UK don't know what we poor souls across the water are missing..."**

There are a number of opinions, and one is entitled to ones opinion. I, whose job entails supporting a great number of PCs running OS/2, Win95, and Win NT, would rather take the time in the eye option than bring this kind of grief onto my desktop. I also defy those to purchase a 300MHz Pentium III, with the option for monitors, for the price I paid for my Commodore PPC I saw, maybe in 3 months to a year from now.

Shane, and a lot of people, really don't understand the PowerPC proposition. The 603 and 604 are in the current product line and far from obsolete. Apple chooses to use the 603 as most of their low-end product line, probably because of the cost the 604 is cheaper. As far as speed goes, IBM says they will have a 100% version of the PPC out late this year, early next.

And where did so many get the idea that Apple is the only market right now for the PPC processor? If Apple were to drop off the face of the earth tomorrow, the PPC would still be here. Motorola sells the PPC and variants as microprocessors, as well as a general purpose CPU. IBM puts the PPC into peripherals, their line of IBM workstations, and variants of the PPC as processors for their microcomputers and mainframes. There are even PPCs, running in a large parallel array, as a supercomputer. Motorola and IBM both have bet the farm, so it were, on the success of the PPC. I think

I'll trust these companies as opposed to Shane's opinion of their future.

To Shane, I would suggest visiting Motorola's website (<http://www.mot.com>) and IBM's (<http://www.ibm.com>) on your next web-surfing excursion. Maybe then you could have not only an opinion, but an informed opinion.

Craig Nori, via email

## All you need is love

Ide friend and I have both fallen in love with Imagine 4.0 and have started to create a mixed collection of objects from pencils to flower vases using the Amiga and this PC. What we need to know is, are the objects to all an acceptable quality to make a CD collection and how to go about advertising and distribution, copyright, who do we approach etc. Just a couple of other points.

1) When can we expect a review of Temate 3D?

2) Please could you include any 3D optimisation patches, like the one for AGO3, on your CDs.

D Gossyne & D Blackburn, no specified address

Look out for a guide to publishing your own software very soon in CU Amiga. We'll have a review of Temate 3D as soon as it's available. As for the objects, they look fine to us.



▲ Some utilitarian objects rendered quite nicely in Imagine 4.0. What is your fave?

# To the Point...

## Larry's friend writes

I want to encourage everybody who reads CU Amiga to run out and buy Draw Studio 2.0, or to upgrade from the cover disc "Lite" version! Draw Studio is a phenomenal and easy-to-use piece of software that makes beautiful Web graphics and DTP logos positively easy to create. There's nothing else like it on the Amiga and I shudder to think that the Dean Brothers will cease development (what a loss that would be! because of lack of sales. Please support this wonderful program, particularly if you own the Lite version.

Keep up the good work on this great magazine.

Steve Folberg, Austin, Texas

Are you sure that's not Steve Austin from Folberg, Texas?

## Skint student ahoy!

Just a note of thanks for the Second demo. Please try and come up with stuff on the disks that we skint unregistered A1200 users can run. I'm a student you see, and can't afford to upgrade, so it's nice to have workable software on the disks from time to time. Cheers.

David Cook, via email

## Work together

I would like to humbly suggest that the Amiga and the Apple Mac start joining forces, or Intel/Microsoft will blow both companies out of the water. Sun are currently developing a CPU which will run Java directly in hardware, surely this would be an ideal processor for the computer of the 21st Century.

Richard C. Lafferty, via email

There's no need to wait for that to happen - you can do it yourself with this month's Mac emulation feature and the software on the CD!

Whether an official arranged marriage of Amiga and Mac would work as well as another merger, let it's worth looking into anything to combat the current and potential future monopolies on personal computers.

If all else fails, there's always the weekend pie approach...



# Points of View

Time for some more opinions... please note that the views expressed here are not necessarily those of CU Amiga.



## Drastic measures



Address me if you will, to talk shop for a minute. Few circulation figures have been released this month for virtually all magazines sold from the UK, and they show that CU Amiga is now the world's best-selling Amiga magazine. Great. A big thank-you to you for buying us. However, these figures, which cover the period from July to December of 1992, also

bear out the inevitable decline in overall Amiga activity. Added together, two remaining UK-based Amiga magazines sold an average of 46,520 copies per month worldwide.

That's compared to 58,716 for six months previous to that. To get that into some perspective, the most popular Amiga magazines used to sell upwards of 180,000 copies each at their peak, and that was when there were many more competing for the same readership.

We all know the scene is shrinking, and most of us are aware that something drastic must happen for things to improve. However, I'm not sure those who really market Amiga Inc. and Amiga International, have the same understanding. Amiga Inc/Int'l seem to value the existing Amiga user base on the one hand, evidence of which is their licensing of the current Amiga technology to third parties.

That's fine in itself, and maybe

**"... the scene is shrinking, and most of us are aware that something drastic must happen for things to improve."**

that's the best they hope to gain from it, although I sincerely hope that's not the case. If they do plan to completely abandon the current Amiga base, letting it die off completely, and focus on bigger projects some years down the line starting from scratch, that's their right. If they carry on as they are, that's what's going to happen if they intend it or not. Amiga clones sold to existing Amiga owners are never going to kick start a revival, and to be honest, I don't think even the brackish licensing attempts from Amiga will achieve that either.

If Amiga think Amiga-AmigaOS, they may well take the line that Bill Gates doesn't make PCs but still dominates the PC market, so why should they get their hands dirty designing, manufacturing and sell-

ing hardware? I'll tell you why, because unless Amiga makes the first move, sets an example, standards and real systems running real software on real hardware, why should any other company let their shirt on the success of what is currently seen by many as a failed/abandoned platform? If they don't make big moves soon, there won't be an Amiga scene from which to launch new projects, whether it's an entire set of hardware/software standards or merely an operating system. On behalf of the scene, I'm respectfully advising Amiga Inc. and Amiga International to get their act too gear. Yes, that's how we say it in London. As last is a daisy. ■  
Tony Morgan is Editor of CU Amiga.

## Flying the flag



I'm not one of nature's flag wavers. I'll buy British, but only if there isn't something better on import. I believe in everything standing on merit and am fundamentally internationalist by nature.

However when it comes to the Amiga I think the UK needs a bit of talking up. Britain is the home of Power Computing, who are DEC's partners in producing the

AS600 and AS800 Amiga clones. The Access, Boleff and InsideOut Amiga clones that bring some really exciting new designs to the Amiga line are from another UK company: Index Information. The revolutionary Sinsense system, not to mention the extension of it into project Alpha and the porting of Amiga OS to the DEC Alpha platform! HQ, another UK company. On the software front we can boast companies such as Digits, producers of the excellent Wordworth. How about Drive Studio from the Dean Ringier/Lin publishing? Active software and the superb Hemsensent package? Soundprobe from HQ? I could go on.

How about games - the UK is the heart of the Amiga games scene, with companies like Nucleon, Bedeem, Mima, and Active being involved at least as publishers in the bulk of Amiga game releases. CD-ROMs? Epic Marketing and West Science have been central to Amiga

**"If AI want to make money selling OS 3.5 and so on, they are going to need the UK."**

CD-ROM development. Britain is also home to the world's two leading Amiga magazines.

Then there is the all important factor of user bases. If AI want to make money selling OS 3.5 and so on, they are going to need the UK. No one is quite sure whether the UK or Germany is the biggest market overall, but the evidence would point to the UK. All this being the case, why is there so little support?

With that size of user bases, it would seem a priority to give the UK market enough faith in the platform to stick it out. Whilst US users have Amiga Inc. to reassure them and German users have Amiga Int., in the UK there isn't much sign of progress. With all those important companies it would seem a priority to be close to the UK action too. If

only because someone in an office across the Atlantic doesn't necessarily know if the person on the other end of the phone is a time waster or someone with viable important developments.

I think it's time the quality became a priority and Amiga UK was formed. It wouldn't need to be much, but it would need AI hugely - putting a lot of balls back into probably the Amiga's biggest market, giving a point of contact for all those UK firms acting as a great bridge between the two Amigas. After all we've got on better with Americans than Germans do, and better with Germans than Americans. So come on chaps, give the UK what we deserve. ■

Andrew Kane is Deputy Editor of CU Amiga.

## The strength of the Amiga

Is the era of alternative computer platform choice over? Windows 95 on Intel-based computers seems to invade every part of our lives. Does this mean there are no markets left for the Amiga? Is this the finish of Amigaized as we know it?

Of course not! What a ridiculous idea!

Windows95 simply isn't a very good fit for a number of markets. Despite the economy of scale making many Intel-based computer add-ons cheaper, there are still many areas where there are only so many potential customers, and so the add-ons cost just as much or more than similar Amiga components. The current hardware architecture also suffers from various limitations imposed by the limited number of hardware interrupts, display card memory access and other memory access.

There's also the issue of usability and stability. Multitasking under Windows95 isn't as needs and economically implemented as the Amiga. Random crashes are too frequent. Windows95, according to mainstream PC-compatible magazines, isn't going to change much of this—not will Windows95 ever be that significant an upgrade for Windows, since adding Internet Explorer is

the package was cancelled after Microsoft's loss against the US Department of Justice.

WindowsCE doesn't have enough power to grab control of markets that Windows95 is unsuited for. WindowsCE based point-and-clicks have failed to sell well against competitors like the PalmPilot and the Pico.

More significantly the platforms that are using WindowsCE also use a variety of custom processors and that the software for WindowsCE platforms has to be recompiled for each of these processors. Vendors used to marketing to the Windows platform are not comfortable with multiple processor support. Microsoft also has a history as shown with WindowsNT, of quickly coming to favour one processor over another (first of course), and discontinuing versions of Windows for the other processors.

WindowsCE 2.0 is promising a smaller size—but it's doing this by simply stripping itself of many features. Based on current reports, if you want WindowsCE 2.0 with all the same features that WindowsCE 1.0 had—2.0 will be larger than 1.0 itself! Many WindowsCE 2.0 machines are coming with 640K ROM to hold the OS alone!

So where does the Amiga fit in for the future?

The Amiga still owns the real

**"Multitasking under Windows95 isn't as neatly and economically implemented as the Amiga."**



▲ Windows 95, it sucks... slightly

desktop video market. Only people with deep pocketbooks can afford Windows-based video solutions. Also as the recent releases of Mynt, Doom, and the forthcoming Quake are showing, the Amiga can also keep up in the games market despite the old misgivings. So what new niches could the Amiga fit into? Where would the Amiga make a real difference?

As has been suggested many times, an Amiga as a home Internet console is a perfect solution. Netpage will soon be available for the Amiga since the release of Netscape's source code is next, but most Amiga browsers are also very capable and they are a lot smaller! Marketing this against WebTV will be eased since WebTV lacks flexibility, speed, and prevents you from choosing your own Internet provider (which also limits its market). WebAmigas would be the go-anywhere, connect-to-anyone solution.

The pay-school educational software market is another ideal place for the Amiga. The cost of a complete, fast, Windows95 system is more than I want to pay for just my 4-year-old to use to play animated, educational, games on. For a stock Amiga 1000 can play full screen animations quite nicely though. In fact, the only thing that keeps a stock 1200 from being an ideal kid's computer (i.e., no built-in broadcast CD-ROM or it's too bulky, it's easier for

the kids to just stick in the CD-ROM and play 'n' learn). Most of these kids games on the Windows platform should also be fairly easy to port—after all they're primarily animations and sound. Everything important is in their design.

An updated 1280-like Amiga would be perfect for both of these markets. Built in a CD-ROM, make the floppy an option. Give the motherboard to allow room for these changes and for standard 3.5" IDE hard drives, the games have to store some information and loading the Internet pages is a must!

Offer PCMCIA modems as options for the Internet connectivity. Consider the design and you'll have a price point that the Windows market will be hard pressed to match, since they'll need SVGA monitors or open cabled video adapters to use the TV's that the Amiga can use right out of the box.

These are just two ideas. There are many more areas the Amiga can make a difference in: schools, kiosks, and any place where the base cost of multimedia is too high when Windows95-based solutions are offered. The Amiga has many strengths and a strong future. ■ **Karen Woodhall is the big cheese at Nova Design (at ImageX fame)**



▲ PalmPilot, better than WindowsCE.

**"WebAmigas would be the go-anywhere, connect-to-anyone solution."**

# TECHNO TRAGEDIES

# Betamax

SONY

Even today, the name Betamax is the subject of ridicule. But what exactly happened, and why did it fail?

It was the 1970s, and the world was gearing up for a home video revolution. The Apollo Program was coming to an indifferent end, and the most important technological breakthrough as far as Joe Public was concerned was the domestic Video Cassette Recorder. The ability to record and replay television programmes was about to reach the domestic market, but more importantly, the big media companies saw a way of cheaply selling their past catalogues of material, and making huge sums of money. There was a lot at stake.

## The Trinity

Three video formats were launched: V2000 from Philips, Betamax by Sony and VHS from JVC. The Philips system had the unique – and quite pointless – feature of double-sided tapes, like music cassettes. It was European. It was unreliable and it didn't stand a chance. The big battle was between Betamax and VHS.

The ways in which Betamax differs from VHS are many, varied and extremely technical. A lot has to do with the recording head and the way in which the video signal is recorded on the magnetic tape. Compared to an ordinary music cassette tape, video tape has to pack in a lot more information. So much so, that the tape would have to move at a speed of five metres a second. Clearly this isn't practical: not only would the VCR have immensely fast moving parts, but the cassette tapes themselves would be huge (the size of subcassets) and take days to record and take home.

The ingenious solution is to build the recording and playback heads into a small drum, and rotate the drum at very speed. As the relative scanning speed is very high, the tape can therefore be moved at a sedate 30cm a second. The final trick is to place the video head drum at an angle, and store the information in tiny diagonal stripes. This technique is called 'helical scanning'. For more details see <http://www.philips-magnetics.com/products/v2000/vcr.html>.

Both Betamax and VHS

systems use this scanning technique, although with slight differences. Betamax was based on Sony's professional U-matic system, which packed in a length of tape and wound it around the drum. It takes a second or two to get the tape into position, but once there it can remain until the tape is ejected.

By comparison, VHS tapes are dragged out of their cassettes and pushed into the drum, although initially slightly quicker, this operation causes more wear and also needs performing every time the tape function changes. As a result, VHS decks make more clunking sounds, and to avoid tape wear, cannot be left in Pause mode for more than a minute or two.

It was image quality which was the Betamax trump card, with a slightly faster tape speed and higher signal bandwidths making for clearer pictures. The urban legend is true: Betamax recordings are clearer than VHS recordings.

However, as we all know, technical superiority doesn't guarantee success. In the UK, Betamax and VHS were launched at the same time, and on paper, Betamax was the clear favourite. There was a problem though: the first VCRs were simply too expensive, and also downright unreliable. Few people could justify the high cost of buying, and so thousands upon thousands rented their VCRs from high street shops.

## Sony, yet so far

Unluckily for Sony, the biggest rental company in the UK was associated with the VHS inventor JVC, which meant most people had their minds made up for them.

The VCR in the living room was a VHS, and so the most popular tapes in the new shop-corner video rental shops were VHS tapes. The companies making the money from rentals also had an interest in the VHS standard, and as most films were on VHS, more people bought or rented VHS systems. Round and round this went, and the end result was that you couldn't buy a Betamax VCR, and even if you could, you could n't get a film to watch on it. Then video recordings, music videos especially, started to feature stereo sound.

The original Betamax standard copied



▲ Sony led the battle of VCR formats, despite superior technology

basically with a stereo upgrade, although it was improved somewhat with the Beta Hi-Fi standard.

Again, it offered better results than stereo VHS, but once again, it made little difference. The 'softwares' – the rental firms – were now almost solely in VHS format, and so there was little reason to buy Betamax hardware. In 1988 Sony, inventors of Betamax, announced their first VHS format VCR, and Betamax died.

## Digital age

Sony went on to invent the camcorder, and of course, used a Betamax derived format called Video8. JVC cut down the size of the VHS to C-VHS, but this time they didn't dominate the market as they would have hoped.

Of course, thankfully, the entire mess is about to be forgotten as we all go digital. Digital video standards exist, and the first camcorders have been available for months. Storing video and sound in digital format is a lot more versatile for all kinds of reasons, and of course computer's have a much easier time converting the footage for editing and grabbing stills.

This digital format at least could draw a line under the VHS/Betamax wars – but it's always dangerous to say that history won't repeat itself: the squabbles over DVD could set it happening all over again...

There is plenty of support on the internet for supporters of Betamax who simply cannot admit that their favourite format is dead. I strongly urge you to read their walls, rants and arguments as they make interesting reading. Start with the Betaphile site:

<http://concorplations.edu/~vancebetaphile.html> and by the Betaphile site (<http://www.betaphile.net/standards/vhs/vhsindex.html>) and links in the UK (<http://www.pccrfiles.com/CapeCovevcr/62624rules.html>).

John Kennedy





# AMIGA REPAIRS

## COMPUTERS AND MONITORS

# WHILE-U-WAIT!!!

Analogue is  
recommended  
repair centre in  
the UK by Amiga  
Technologies

### Attention Dealers

Bring/See Now for best trade prices and terms  
on Repairs, Spares, Floppy Drives, Hard Drives,  
CD Rom Drives and Memory Upgrades.

- FAST TURNAROUND
- 180 DAYS WARRANTY ON ALL REPAIRS
- £1000 EXTRA CHARGE FOR WHILEAWAY SERVICE
- PICK UP & DELIVERY CHARGE £5 EACH WAY
- A1500/A2000/A4000 ... EXPANSION

### A500, A500+ & A600

**£39.95**

### A1900

**£49.95**

Please call for  
a better than  
price match  
deal

## MEMORY UPGRADES

**A500** Upgrade to 1 Meg **£13.95**

**A500+** Upgrade to 1 Meg **£19.95**

**A600** Upgrade to 2 Meg **£19.95**

**UNBEATABLE PRICES**  
Please call for latest best price

**A1900** 640k **£24.95**

512k **£29.95**

1M **£39.95**

## INTERNAL FLOPPY DRIVES

A500/A500+/A600/A1900 **£24.95**

## APOLLO ACCELERATORS

1230 Lite.....	£69.95	<b>SIMMS</b>	
1230/50.....	£119.95	4095.....	£79.95
1240/25.....	£139.95	5095.....	£39.95
1240/50.....	£159.95	5095.....	£49.95
1260/50.....	£279.95	5095.....	£79.95

## SCSI CD-ROMS

Quad Speed SCSI  
+ Squirrel.....**£119.00**

## IDE CD-ROMS

Black 90 max.....**£79.95**

## MODEMS

**EASY APPROVED**  
+ BCOMM SOFTWARE  
+ CABLES  
**33.6k.....£69.00**

## LOLA GENLOCKS

L1000.....**£169.95**  
L2000S.....**£349.95**

**SIMPLY THE BEST AFTER-SALES SERVICE**  
**GUARANTEED SAME DAY DESPATCH (Subject to availability)**

## TRADE IN YOUR AMIGA FOR A PC

**NEW** WE BUY DEAD OR ALIVE A1200 AND A4000  
WHS AS FOR A REASONABLE OFFER FOR YOUR A1200/A4000  
COMPUTER OR A51 HITCHHIKER - ON ANY CONDITION

## HARD DRIVES SALE

### 2-5" IDE HARD DRIVES

8000k.....	£59.95	71000k.....	£89.95	1.10k.....	£119.00
10000k.....	£79.95	81000k.....	£99.95	1.1.....	£139.95
10000k.....	£89.95	1.00k.....	£99.95		

5.25" IDE Cables & Software (If bought separately).....**£9.95**

### 3-5" IDE HARD DRIVES

1.1 gk.....**£99.00** 4.2 gk.....**£179.00**

### 3-5" SCSI HARD DRIVES

1.0 gk.....**£179.00** 4.2 gk.....**£249.95**

Please call for other capacities

## CHIPS + SPARES + ACCESSORIES

ROM 2.0k.....	£19.95	4000k 1200 REPAIR KIT.....	£29.95
ROM 2.0k.....	£19.95	12447 1200.....	£19.95
4000k.....	£29.95	4000k 1200.....	£19.95
4000k.....	£19.95	4000k 1200.....	£19.95
4000k.....	£19.95	4000k 1200.....	£19.95

A500/A500+/A1900 POWER SUPPLY.....**£24.95**  
A1500/A2000/A4000 POWER SUPPLY.....**CALL**

\* All spares are available on stock  
\* Please call for very cheap on spares and latest prices

# AMIGA COMPUTERS

A500 With PSB + Mouse + Rat.....	£79.95
A500+ With PSB + Mouse + Rat.....	£89.95
A600 With PSB + Mouse + Rat.....	£149.95
A1900 Magic Pack.....	£349.95
A1900 With 8000 Hard Drive.....	£379.95
A1900 With 12000 Hard Drive.....	£319.95
A1900 With 15000 Hard Drive.....	£349.95
A1900 With 5.1gk Hard Drive.....	£449.95
A4000 (Available).....	£349.95
A4000 (Available).....	£349.95

+ **HEAVY DISCOUNTS ON MEMORY UPGRADES**  
**AND ACCELERATORS WHEN BOUGHT WITH A1900**  
+ **EXTENDED WARRANTY UP TO 5 YEARS**  
**AVAILABLE ON ALL A1900 COMPUTERS**

**ANALOGIC** **Analogue Computers (UK) Ltd** **Open Mon-Fri 9-00am-5-30pm, Sat 9-00am-5-00pm**  
**Unit 4, Ashway Centre, Elm Crescent, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT5 8HH** **Tel: 0181 546 9575**

\* All prices include VAT and all prices for specifications subject to change without notice  
\* Free charge for repair does not include delivery/drop-off  
\* We reserve the right to refuse any repair or replacement if the item is not in working order for repairs elsewhere  
\* All sales/repairs are only as per the terms and conditions, apply standard on request

